

SKIN

NOVEMBER 1955 25c

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DIVER

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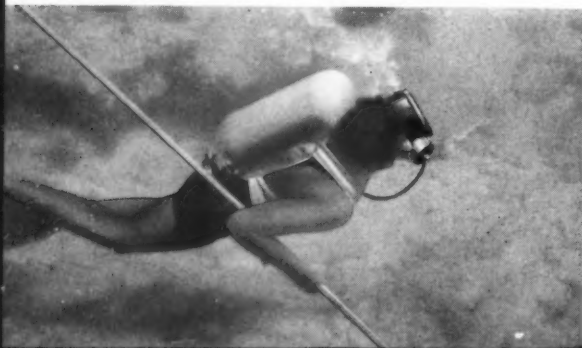
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SKIN DIVER—NOVEMBER—3

The SKIN DIVER

P.O. Box 128, Lynwood, California, Telephone LOrain 7-1367

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No. 11

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JIM AUXIER, Editor

CHUCK BLAKESLEE, Adv. Mgr.-Assoc. Editor

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S.P.A.A.U. MEETING Underwater Spearfishing

Thursday, November 10, 1955

8:00 P.M.

834 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

Pat O'Malley, Chairman

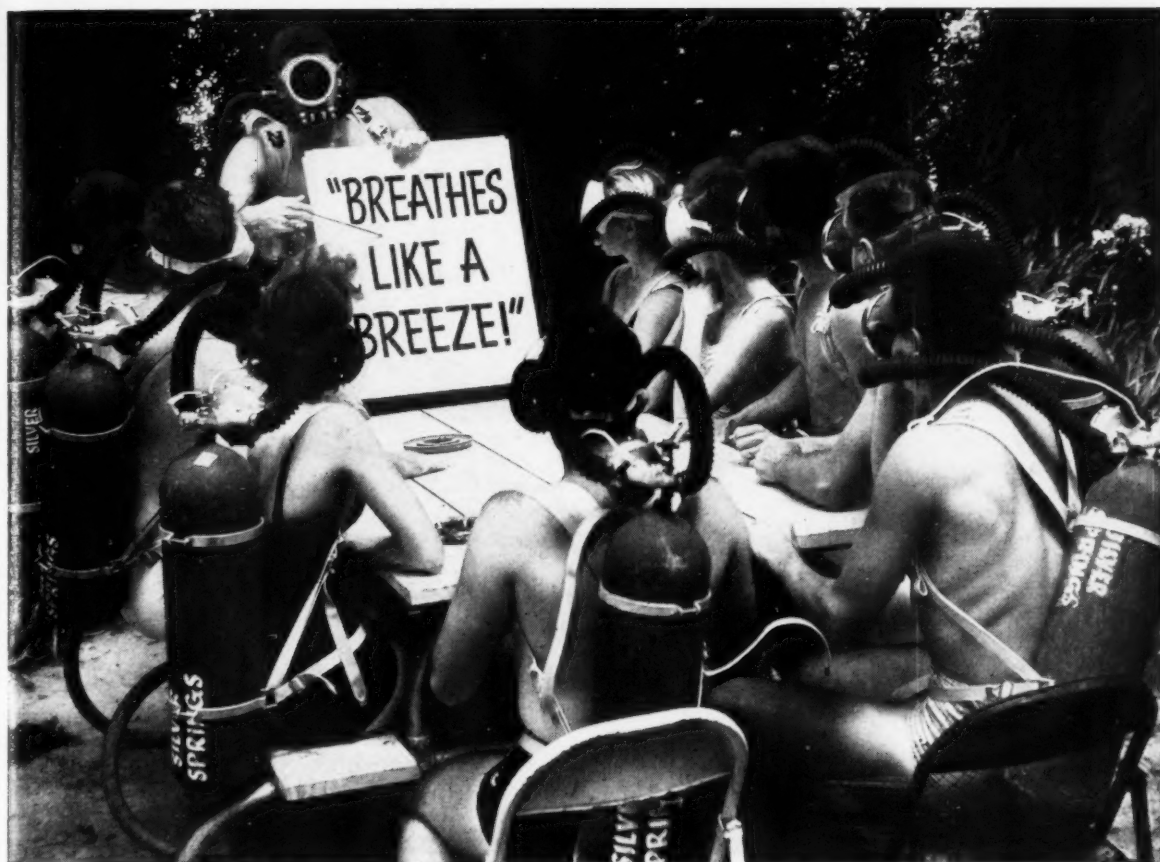
NOVEMBER COVER

PHILIP NASH, world renown for his spectacular photography above and below the surface, is credited with making the "Skin Diver" cover this month. Spearfisherman Gustav Dalla Valle is the subject and is passing a large Barracuda to the boatman, a Barracuda that has been squarely hit with the speargun shaft. Locale for the picture is Haiti, scene of several movies made by Nash and Dalla Valle.

news briefs and jim crax . . .

editorial

STEPHAN TJAARDA, who has been the water safety director and 'Y' swim coach at the Hartford, Conn., YMCA for several years, has recently taken new duties at the West Side YMCA, New York City. Stef, as he is known to many, brings to the West Side Y many years of active experience in underwater swimming and skin diving training. Congrats and success at your new post. Stef, ROBERT McILVAINE, writer of "Skin Diver" feature story Underwater Penam recently, suggests that diving clubs and individuals exchange tape recordings to learn more about the different areas and water conditions. The recordings could be made up and advertised in the DBB, or if there are enough of them, "Skin Diver" will run a column of these ads free of charge in the interest of the sport. A quote from his letter: "Small scale tournaments can be recorded, club meetings, description of fishing grounds, facilities available, type of equipment used, etc. A great deal of information can be put on one tape and it seems plausible that clubs will want to borrow them from other clubs to play at meetings." BOB MARK, who found the "Monitor," and several business and salvage men are forming a commercial salvage corporation. Their first endeavor will be the raising of the "Monitor," which they will present to a museum or some society. Then they will attempt to raise and salvage several wrecks scattered all over the Eastern Seaboard. Each of his associates have experience in salvage work and they also have rights to use the "Leavitt" armored diving suit. CLIFFORD SPENCER, popular Hawaiian diver and businessman, has recently undertaken the additional title of Territory of Hawaii Representative for Skin Diver. Cliff is well liked by the underwater people on the islands and will prove to be a great asset to the magazine in that region through public relations, subscriptions and advertising. C. E. "Shorty" HALL, of Akron, Ohio, has been asked by Dan Ferris (AAU) if he would represent Ohio on the National AAU committee in skin diving and spearfishing. Shorty has served with the Red Cross in the capacity of swimming teacher, water safety and life saving instructor and disaster worker for 16 years. Last May, Shorty was instrumental in finding the body of Ronald Saralino, a three-year-old, who was a victim of the Calahoga river. JEAN LAUR, of the "Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient" and head of their archeological team, is presently exploring an ancient Khmer city at the bottom of a lake at Angkor Thom, Cambodia. Angkor Thom is a vast ruined city now being reconstructed. Very naturally, the team of archeologists is using skin diving methods. HAROLD LORD and ROY HANNA, Tulsa, Okla., divers, raised a sport cruiser from 105 feet of water in Grand Lake, Okla. Lord, who found the boat on his first dive, said there was no visibility at the depth he discovered the boat, 105 feet, yet!! JOSEPH FELTMAN, a skin diver attached to the USS Submarine Remora, was killed by a landslide at Ocean Beach, San Diego, Calif. Feltman was standing on the beach when an overhang of a 100-foot cliff gave way and covered him with tons of rock. BOB YEARGIN, while skin diving off Malibu, California, fought off a six-foot blue shark that attacked him in 15 feet of water. The shark bit both of his arms before the battle was over. Yeargin's weapon was a 6-inch hunting knife. Is yours sharp? EBBTIDERS, an active Southern California skin diving club, recently chartered a boat for a sojourn to their favorite diving grounds. They have a gripe and a very good one, too. Upon arriving at the dock they were informed that the original boat they chartered was out of commission or on another trip or something, also they learned that the price agreed upon was wrong and that they would have to pay more money. An alternate boat was offered and taken. A mangy tub . . . no radio, a makeshift ladder, no lung air (as they had been promised), and as far as they could see . . . no license. A mess. The trip started two hours late, the skipper was intoxicated, almost grounded them twice before they were out of the harbor. The skipper also asked them to bring in some short lobster for him to take home, and on the return trip they missed the harbor by ten miles . . . at that point the skipper didn't know which way to go. They have reason for a gripe. The Ebbtider phone number is ATLantic 4-0529, Los Angeles. WALT SMITH of Boise, Idaho, lunged his way down 40 feet to the old mining town of Roosevelt in Roosevelt Lake, Idaho, only to find an old pot-bellied stove in the rotting remains of the once thriving gold town. He wasn't looking for anything in particular, but I imagine he expected more than just a stove.



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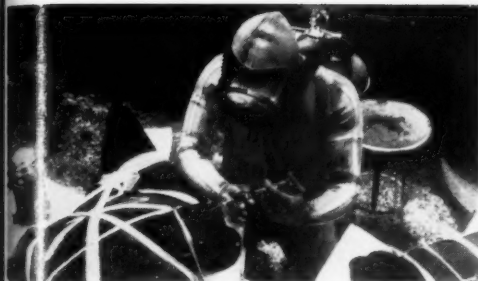
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Photo by Gene Daniels taken at Marineland of the Pacific



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GLUB CLUB?

A sort of Whimsy Report upon the moronic behavior of so-called skin divers whose approach to spearfishing casts a bad light upon the greatest sport in the world . . .

If everyone will kindly remove their face-mask and hold it, reverently, over their heart—we will observe a few minutes of awed silence; I'm lathering up a real, profound contribution to Our Sport.

There is a pointy-headed element in this world whose regard for rules, regulations and general safety gives me the climbing shrieks: they just aren't sanely like the other boys and girls.

In the air . . . they're called Hot Pilots. Behind the steering wheel . . . they're known as Yo-Yos. And I think it's time that Skin Diving derived a similar term for the goofy, reckless jokers who have (of late) begun to infest our coastal and inland waters.

I'm talking about the Glub. That's right—Glub. There are several, outstanding types of Glubs; but taken as a wildly enthusiastic group, let's call them the Glub Club. They have no actual charter; they follow no set rules or restrictions.

8—NOVEMBER—SKIN DIVER



By CARL
(Well, I'll be a dirty fish)
KOHLER



They just take to the water with all the foolhardy courage of a sardine challenging a whale to a mouth-rattle.

The Glub is usually a solitary, fiercely independent swimmer. Which is all right—when practiced with caution, intelligence, and in water not over six inches deep. I know a lot of legit skin divers who have never belonged to a regular club and never intend to—but they usually observe the rules advised by various associations.

Not so, the Glub.

Take the one I met, recently, while strolling along the Long Beach Breakwater looking for mermaids and things—a favorite recreation which, besides furnishing a swim, fresh air and a blood-tingly sense of freedom, also gives me a good excuse to hide out from my type-writer.

Anyway, here was this Glub diligently grubbing about in the rocks. He wore what seemed to be a half-suit cleverly constructed of dismantled inner-tubes. It must have been, because an old unrecovered air-valve-nib still projected from the material covering his shoulder. He sported jazzy tennis shoes and a cap bearing the faded gilt legend, "Titanic."

Here, I thought, is either an unsung record-holder for deep diving or a close-mouthed survivor of the well known tragedy. Turns out . . . I'm wrong both ways: "Titanic" being the trade name of the poolhall where this Glub worked as a cueduster. However, I decided to query the boy.

"Anything good? I said pleasantly.

"Duh . . . naw!" Glub replied with a grimace of disgust. "I ain't saw anything all morning . . . duh . . . but I'm gonna get out a good ways," here, a slobbery, hollow laugh, "and, boy, will I . . . duh . . . ever get the big babies!"

I studied the kitchen-knife lashed to the weatherbeaten cueduster he held. Some weapon. Just the thing for stabbing vicious sea urchin or fighting off a charging seahorse. Somehow, my unimaginative mind just refused to visualize that weapon giving any fish a really hard time. That is, any fish more than 30% awake and alive.

"Going way out, eh?" I remarked. "Where's your buddy?"

"Duh . . . he don't like swimming."

"No, you don't understand what I mean," I chortled, subduing a sudden urge to give him a hit in the head. "I mean, where's your safety-factor, help-in-case-of-unexpected-trouble type buddy? You know, like all the skin diving clubs suggest when fishing—'always observe the buddy-system', like?"

Understanding glowed dimly in his closely-set little eyes and flickered out

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again. An expression of great scorn crawled across his face.

"Duh . . . you think I'm a sissy or sumpin', Mac?"

"But I thought *everybody* used the buddy-sys . . ."

"Not me, Mac!" he shouted, thumping his chest vigorously which sent him into ringing, hacking coughs. "Them panty waist guys with their old-lady-kind-a-diving are welcome to . . . duh . . . that sissy stuff! I'm the . . . duh . . . adventurer type. I can take care of myself!"

Indignantly, he gracefully dove from the breakwater . . . hit a submerged rock . . . ricocheted neatly into an old piling and disappeared to the southwest—doing a reverse frog-kick on his back and roundly denouncing the National Council of Skin Divers. Very obviously, I decided in pity, a frustrated soul who had been repeatedly rejected from joining the *Neptunes*.

Smart crew, those *Neptunes*. Not a Glub in the school.

Having stumbled upon the Glub I began running into them everywhere. Take the clear-eyed, playful young American Glubs whose horseplay, one morning as I sat sunning myself down by the Belmont Pier, brought them tumbling and laughing gaily to my amused and approving attention. Merrily, they wrestled and romped . . . healthy, happy examples of youth and high spirits.

Suddenly, I noticed each carried a cartridge-speargun. I struggled to my feet . . . wildly looking about for a nice thick-walled refuge. As I streaked under the pier, I heard a jolly shout of mischief: "Duh . . . hey, McJerk! Looky! I'm . . . duh . . . gonna shoot ya . . . duh . . . like a sittin' seabass . . . har, har, har!"

Some old training came to mind and I flung the body flatter than dieting flounder on the sand. A second later, a steel spear—hissing like a pot of roused vipers—whipped overhead and buried itself into a piling . . . about three horrible inches from my rapidly-whitening hair.

I don't give Thanks as often as I should, so I was probably a little incoherent, but I'm sure I managed to convey my general sense of quaking relief and sheer gratitude to The Man Upstairs. Quivering like an old tuning fork, I got to my feet as McJerk and friend sauntered over.

"Duh . . . you wanna watch it, man!" gurgled the one with the hairline that came to his eyebrows. "You almost . . . duh . . . got nailed but good!"

"Har! Har! Har!" chimed McJerk wittily.

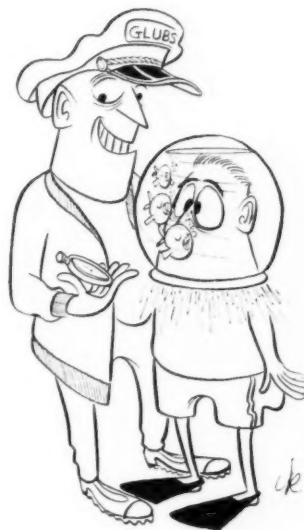
See what I'm getting at? *Glubs*.

Anytime you see this sort of madness . . . in the water . . . on the water . . .

underwater . . . or even near the water—you can bet with yourself (and win, all odds) that you are dangerously in the presence of . . . *Glubs*.

For a long time I've wondered how they get that way—how they ever get started in the wrong direction, common-sensewise, but I found out, just a few days ago.

My three smear-faced little apes were playing in the yard next door. The people over there are new, but our kids seem to get along pretty well and I've been meaning to stagger over and introduce myself. Suddenly, excited shrieks and whoops drifted to my alert ears. I casually raced over there, hoping my kids weren't basting *all* the windows. I



skidded to a heel burning halt at what I found.

Brandishing a large pocketknife and dancing madly about in the good-sized fish pond, my neighbor's heir and offspring waved a somewhat carved-up goldfish in his other hand and made carelessly impressive swipes through the air with the knife as he hopped around in the bloodied water—screaming joyously at the top of his loud-mouthed little voice.

My new neighbor sat on the porch—a stack of swimfins, masks, inner-tubes and homemade spearguns beside his chair—watching the little cretin's performance with a fat and beery grin. He turned to me.

"Duh . . . regular lil' skin diver, ain't he! Har! Har! Har!"

"C'mon boys!" I ordered, coldly.

I suppose you'll consider me a Snob I/c, but it's an old family tradition. We Kohlers just don't associate with Glubs. It ain't healthy . . . even ashore.

THIS NEW GUAGE

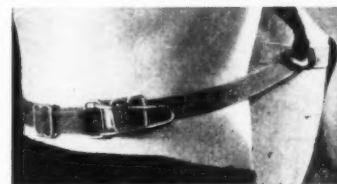
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Autobiography of A Skin Diver

By **RODNEY JONKLAAS**

Member of the "Ceylon Reefcombers"



I started skin diving in the sea in 1945, just a few weeks after I came to live in Colombo and attend courses in University Education. I have been interested in water life since I was 5 years old and all my life I have read books about the sea, fishes, diving and associated subjects. I read articles and stories and saw a few films on skin diving. Needless to say my imagination and enthusiasm were greatly aroused.

Imagine my surprise when I saw my very first skin diver, bronzed, long-haired Gerd Von Dincklage, at that time a novice but destined to be Ceylon's No. 1 and my diving partner in later years. This was about December, when the sea was calm off Colombo. I saw Gerd walk proudly up the beach with home-made mask, hand-spear and a 2 pound Rabbit-fish impaled on it. A Hawaiian diver straddling a monster shark could not have given me a greater thrill at that moment. In a day or two I had joined the Club he belonged to, the Kinross Swimming and Life Saving Club. In less than a month I had my first mask (purchased from a pal who had got some surplus Sea-Dive gear from G.I.'s stationed close by). Soon I was a keen and active member of the Kinross Reefcombers, the skin diving section. For four years we speared fish with hand-spears, and thus my grounding was solid and faultless. At our peak we could spear up to 50 pounds of fish per trip, each fish averaging 5 pounds and swim with this load about our waists for hours in the water. We learned to catch octopus and crabs by hand and even did so for two years before we got our first swim-fins, also Sea Dive gear from G.I. surplus. The Sea Dive fins sold for a Rupee per pair at the surplus sales after the war, that is, about 20 cents in U.S. currency! Still, I was near sighted enough to buy

only four or five pairs! Some of these are still in use and cherished by their owners.

Ceylon waters have many "best places." It is hard to define any one spot because of the movement of fishes and the water conditions which alter with the seasons. Monsoons on both coasts hold up diving for long periods and serve as effective close seasons for diving. This way our fish-life is still as good as ever.

There are some spots that I will never forget. A lonely rocky island out at sea, round which lies the remains of sunken vessel is, when clear, a veritable paradise. Shark, Pompano, Grouper, Giant Parrot-fish and huge Jacks throng this area and we have had some wonderful fishing here. Some days the visibility is over 100 feet, the water is always warm and comfortable to dive in. In one day I counted over 20 big Jacks in an area less than four acres in extent, and each Jack was well over the 50 pound mark, some over 100!

Then there are wonderful locations on the East Coast of Ceylon off famed Trincomalee harbor and outlying reefs. One spot off a Hindu shrine and at the foot of a 100 foot cliff is magnificent. In one dive (without breathing gear) I have seen Barracuda, big Groupers, Reef-mullet up to 50-lb. and thousands of other fishes swimming over a 40 foot deep bottom.

Being self-contained, and minus breathing gear, power-heads or powerful Co2 guns I have not attempted extra-large fishes for fear of losing my gun. For years I had only one spring-gun and it is only lately that I have got another. Guns are expensive and hard to replace in Ceylon. My biggest Game-fish was a 57½-lb. Jack (Caranx) and I have taken several sharks and rays up to the 70-lb. mark. I have not attempted to take Groupers over 100-lb. for lack of equipment. I'd rather let the

fish pass by than lose gun and all and not have any gear for the lighter, more active type of spearfishing.

My equipment is simple yet effective and foolproof. I do not use snorkels of any sort and abhor them. I simply cannot adapt myself to being dependent on one and also being condemned to silence. (We do a lot of bawling at each other underwater and above). We employ screams and shouts to warn and advise underwater. We depend on quick breaths and fast dives to get the fast-moving fishes we hunt most actively like Pompano, Barracuda, Queenfish, King Mackerel, Jacks, etc. With a snorkel all this is greatly impeded. We don't need to keep our heads looking down all the time and keeping fish in view. Most times there are enough fishes about to enable us to look up and about us, indulge in friendly chatter and still be sure of meeting a target on our next dive!

Where masks are concerned I have tried many and have decided that the best one is the Hurricane Sea Hawk with straight edges of soft rubber. In my opinion there is no more comfortable mask in the whole diving world. The only trouble is, these perish so soon in our climate.

I do not have an aqua lung yet but hope to do so soon. I am quite sure that it will be a wonderful asset but not for the speedy kind of spearfishing we delight in.

My favorite fins are easy on the feet yet stiff and powerful. I have found that comfort in fins is the most essential factor in skin diving. Have on bad ones and your every joint becomes slow torture. Mine are over four years old and have often been repaired but I still use them and cherish them, they are of Italian "Superga" type.

Where spearguns are concerned I am a confirmed spring-gun addict. There are

no more maneuverable, cheap, easily loaded and maintained guns in the world. I cherish and love my old Cressi "Squalo" gun now no longer on the market. It is a bigger brother of the "Cernia" and employs the same spring and similar harpoons. But the finish and general appearance of the gun, the superb trigger mechanism is hard to beat. What is required in a spring-gun, or any speargun for that matter, is simplicity, power, and fool-proof construction. Seldom or never do our guns give us trouble when we are out spearfishing. Gas-guns run out of gas or cartridges, rubber-guns snap the rubbers, air-guns leak or run out of air, but spring-guns keep on shooting. We have brought spring-gun technique to a high standard thanks to Gerd Von Dinkelage who introduced the first "Squalo" to Ceylon.

Until lately we did not employ floats and lines attaching our harpoons and guns. We relied upon sheer brute force and reserve line to tackle the bigger fish. When big ones swam past we strove for accurate, close-range shots and clean kills. It is only lately that floats have come into vogue and funnily enough the big fish are seldom around or vulnerable when these are being towed about!

The best spearfisherman I have ever known is Gerd Von Dinkelage now alas, out of Ceylon and I hope skin diving to his hearts content somewhere else in the World. It was Gerd who taught me most of what I know about spearfishing and spring-gun technique. I in turn helped him with Ichthyology and fish-recognition. As partners we got on famously. Gerd turned professional, so adept was he when he got his first "Squalo." He was reckless to the point of lunacy, would attack huge fish without a care in the world. He was extraordinarily lucky too, never to have lost a gun although he had to let go often when unable to horse big fish to the surface. He scorned snorkels and floats. He would carry all his fish around on his waist for miles and miles, seemingly quite fresh.

Gerd was a master showman underwater and above it and never failed to draw a crowd with his tarzan-like manner. The girls went for him in a big way and he in turn went for the fish, often trailing girls in his wake. At least three land-lubbers became mermaids to please Von Dinkelage!

He taught me not to fear vast distances and dizzy depths. He accompanied me on my first 50 foot dive and showed me that it was not that tough. He could do well over a minute underwater, and that too at terrific speed when chasing fast fish. As a fish-killer he was ruthless—we often had bitter arguments about that. He scarcely knew when or where to stop, but then he was a pro and made the most of his opportunities.

Gerd was part of the sea itself in Colombo and all over Ceylon where he dived. When he left us two years ago the Reefcombers lost a real champ. We sincerely hope he will return to us and join us on our underwater safaris.

In eight years of active spearfishing all round Ceylon, in deep and shallow water, off distant reefs and close inshore, I have never seen a shark larger than 10 feet, nor have I seen a Tiger, Hammerhead or White Shark. We are as tropical as can be, there are stories of shark attack from all over Ceylon but none of them authenticated. I feel that fish-dynamiters rouse small shark by the blood and corpses of their quarry, when in turn slash at anything that moves in the water through sheer bloodlust.

I agree in entirety with Hans Hass about shark in general. They are cowardly, yet cunning, swift, voracious. They have an uncanny knowledge of the range of underwater guns. Many shark have approached me from behind but none have come head-on when my gun was extended towards them. I have even had a small shark (a Blackfin) take a Pompano off my waist and bite it in half. The movement was so gentle and I was so engrossed with a cray underwater that I did not feel the gentle nudge that indicated that the shark had sheared off half a 10-lb. Pompano! I only realized my peril when the same fish swam past in front of me nonchalantly chewing my Pompano's tail. I promptly took defensive action and the brute veered off and kept out of range.

I have found that shark accustomed to underwater explosions which kill or stun other fish, are attracted by gas-gun explosion and rush divers before they realize they are off the track!

Underwater shouts or screams scare shark but not always. We have had them swim past quite unmindful of the most Caruso-like yells accompanied by vast numbers of bubbles.

I have often been rushed by shark for the fishes I carry about my waist but the moment I aimed my gun at them they kept well out of range. One particularly dogged specimen, a 5-foot Blackfin, was reckless enough to brave two shots from my speargun (which merely bounced off his hide) and still persist in trying to steal fish from my waist.

Shark are hard to shoot in Ceylon and the most powerful Gas-guns are necessary to pierce their hides at the range they keep. They are seldom caught unawares and take fright the moment they feel they have been surprised.

Shark attractor No. 1 is the fin-beat of a wounded Jack with croaks accompanying. We often shoot small Jacks on purpose to attract sharks for unbelievers.

My most interesting adventure took

place at the foot of a 100-foot cliff called Swami Rock in Trincomalee. One evening partner Dinkelage and I took down another neophyte Reefcomber as well as a party of English unbelievers who were keen on trying out some new gear. (One of them has since become one of the most rabid underwater men in our group and has since gone on leave and returned to Ceylon armed with a twin-tank lung for deep diving.)

We took a girl with us too, an admirer of Gerd's who was determined to chase sharks. We entered the water one evening and in the first breath I was fast onto a nice Pompano which I promptly landed. Gerd's turn came next and he astonished the watchers above him by diving to 50 feet and bringing up an 18-lb. Jack which gave him terrific fight. With a simple brass and steel barbless hand-spear I horrified the party on shore by producing a 6-foot Moray in one thrust through the gills.

Then we spotted a small turtle and gave chase underwater. Turtles can be mighty nippy and Gerd and I worked in relays to tire this one out. Eventually we secured it much to the delight of the onlookers.

Gerd's girl friend, in the meantime, was entering into the spirit of the thing. Much to our admiration she commenced chasing sharks with great vigor, and terrified at least five of them before she gave up. There were big Groupers about that day and Gerd wanted to try out a brand new Hurricane Mosquito Pistol that one of our guests had paid a fabulous sum for that afternoon. It proved to be an utter failure and hardly scraped the bodies of several small Groupers we holed up and shot at point-blank range.

The highlight of that evening took place when Gerd was charged by an immense Grouper, well over the 600-lb. mark, which shot up at him from the invisible depths. He yelled and waved his hands, feet and gun underwater, eventually scaring the brute off. I saw the whole incident from some distance away and was frankly scared. I never saw Gerd looking paler in all his life. For once, he too, was scared!

I am not purely a spearfisherman. My allied interests include specimen hunting for corals, shells, and creepy-crawlies for scientist friends. I also trap and net exotic marine fishes underwater by night and day for the zoo aquarium which I run, and also for the sheer hell of it. I am something of a Conchologist and an artist and like to paint underwater scenes, fishes and marine life in my spare time.

When I can afford it I shall take to underwater photography and exploration of wrecks of which there are several off our shores. But I will never entirely give up spearfishing.

Hand Signal System



1 DANGER
INDEX FINGER EXTENDED-
ARM MOVES IN STRAIGHT UP
AND DOWN MOTION (TOWARD
SURFACE)-RAPIDLY



2 UP
THUMB POINTS UP



3 DOWN
THUMB POINTS DOWN



4 DIRECTION (FLAT HAND)
OVER REEF, AROUND REEF,
UNDER KELP, VEER LEFT OR
RIGHT



5 LOOK AT OBJECT
POINT WITH FINGER



6 EVERYONE ASSEMBLE HERE
CIRCLE ARM OVERHEAD



7 HOLD STILL
ONE OR BOTH ARMS AT 90°
ANGLE WITH FISTS CLENCHED



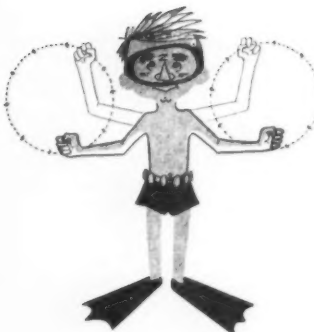
8 HELP ME
RIGHT ARM HELD STRAIGHT
UP, PALM OUT - MOTIONLESS



9 EVERYTHING OK
THUMB & FIRST FINGER
FORM CIRCLE



10 AIR SUPPLY LOW
CLOSED FIST STRIKING
CHEST



11 ALERT! OTHER DIVERS IN AREA
CLOSED FIST MAKES CIRCULAR
MOTION TO SIDE



12 ALERT! DANGEROUS MARINE LIFE
OPEN PALM MAKES CIRCULAR
MOTION TO SIDE



**13 REGARDING QUESTIONS OF
DIRECTION, DEPTH, OR TIME**
POINT TO INSIDE WRIST



14 QUESTION
FREE HAND PALM UP



15 ATTENTION
BANG ON TANK WITH ROCK
OR OTHER HARD OBJECT

Hand Signal System is reprinted from "Underwater Recreation," published by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. These signals cover just about any situation that the skin diver will run into and can be used effectively at any distance, depending entirely upon the clarity of the water. It is suggested that divers first learn the signals that apply to their area and water conditions so they will be able to communicate with each other, and then learn the entire set or have a working knowledge of this system.

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SEAHORSE I CROSSES CATALINA CHANNEL

Tuesday, October 6 — 7 A.M. — The small boat landing at Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro, California, was the starting point for this unprecedented crossing of the channel that yawns between the mainland and Santa Catalina Island. This same channel has been crossed many times by record seeking distance swimmers, paddleboard racers, and a skin diver in full gear. The crossing of the Seahorse I two-man submarine was made against the current whereas most of the crossings have been made from Catalina to the mainland, using the currents to assist them.

The submarine left Cabrillo with co-pilot Zale Parry and pilot Dick Anderson in the cockpits. Upon leaving the harbor Zale was relieved by Gustav Dalla Valle. Later on Coles Phinizy, Sports Illustrated staff writer, was placed in the passengers cockpit for what proved to be his most exciting underwater adventure. Passengers and pilots were interchanged at intervals aboard the submarine because of the cold water and also to enable them to replace their air tanks.

The Seahorse I is a peacetime model of the Italian Navy "pig" that was used so effectively during World War II. It travels at six knots underwater and can reach depths of some sixty feet. The submarine has a four cylinder gasoline engine for power and is connected to the surface by a snorkel. The snorkel feeds air to the internal combustion engine. The divers aboard the sub wear conventional skin diving gear and can come and

**Two man
submarine
makes
crossing in
6½ hours**

Gustav Dalla Valle and Dick Anderson, pilot and co-pilot of the imported Italian two-man submarine, are caught in flight during the 6½ hour underwater cruise from Cabrillo to Catalina Island, California.



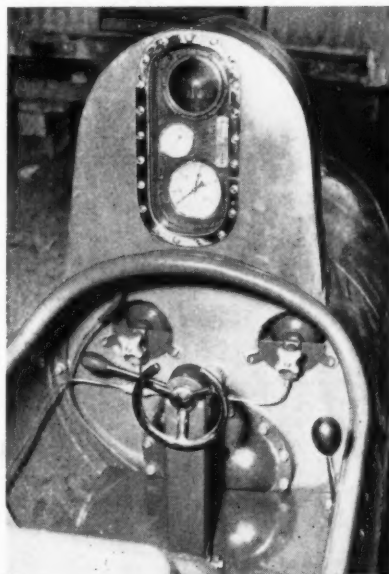
go from the sub at will as long as their personal air supply lasts. The riders aboard for the crossing wore two tank Scuba units for the most part.

Specifications and details of Seahorse I: 16-ft. long, approximately 3-ft. in diameter; 25 horsepower gasoline marine engine (forward and reverse), using ingenious exhaust and snorkel air intake system; weighs about 2500-lbs.; speed maximum 8 knots on the surface, 6 knots underwater; carries two men in open cockpit (one operator and one passenger); riders must wear Scuba units; compressed air system with two tanks is used to ballast sub for diving and surfacing; steering is similar to airplane with rear planes (vertical and horizontal) controlling movement in any direction.

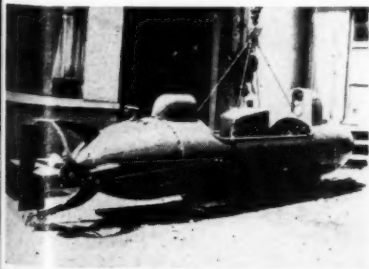
The gasoline tank capacity is four gallons and the sub can cruise 37 miles without refueling; instruments include, depth gauge, inclinometer, compass and vacuum gauge; engine is mounted in rear of sub in watertight section behind passenger; adjustable ballast weight is located in the nose to help secure trim; keel on bottom contains ballast lead weights to keep sub in normal, horizontal position; controls include, ignition switch, clutch with forward, neutral and reverse, throttle lever, control wheel assembly, two air and water ballast controls for trimming sub for dive or surface.

The Seahorse I two-man submarine

was for manufactured in Perugia, Italy, by Cosmos exclusively for Healthways to specifications furnished by Gustav Dalla Valle. August of 1940 saw the first wartime action of the human torpedo or "pig" as it was nicknamed. The wartime version was 22-ft. long, 21 inches in diameter, and contained a detachable war head with 500 pounds of high explosive.



Instrument panel, steering, and ballast controls are shown just prior to the Catalina crossing of the Italian two man submarine, SEA HORSE I.



The 16-foot SEA HORSE is the answer for rapid, extended sight seeing and exploring underwater. Shown above during early testing period.

An Underwater Visit to . . .

WAKE ISLAND

By ROBIN KINKEAD

Wake Island—a tiny dot on the far Pacific—has almost idyllic skin diving for the fortunate few who are stationed there and members of flight crews who stop over there.

First of all the water around the reefs at Wake runs around 83 degrees, surface temperature.

The boys say it gets a little cooler when diving to 70 feet or so in SCUBA's, but they haven't noticed any thermal layer, or break, where the water suddenly grows chill.

The members of the Wake Island Reef Diving and Shark Stabbing Association—a loose and informal group including an occasional airline stewardess—laughed when I told them of the exposure suits, wet and dry, that we go in for in the 50 degree water of Carmel and the slightly warmer fluid of Palos Verdes.

I visited the famous island—where the U. S. Marine Corps made such a courageous stand after Pearl Harbor—for a week under assignment from Pan American Airways.

Got to go skin diving twice during that time with the boys, and a bit on my own in relatively uninteresting lagoon waters.

Wake is a V-shaped coral atoll, composed of 2½ square miles of coral pebbles and coral sand, with the highest elevation about 12 feet above sea level.

It's in 19 degrees latitude, almost the same as Hawaii, and is 2301 miles west of Honolulu, 4701 miles west of San Francisco, and 1987 miles east of Tokyo.

Wake is used solely as a fueling station for several commercial airlines (Pan Am first used it in 1935 when setting up the first trans-Pacific flight route) and the military. It is a U. S. possession run under Navy auspices by the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

Landing strip there is more than 7,000 feet long—ample for any airliner in the world today. Five hundred people are stationed there, and there is a daily transient population of air crews laying over for rest periods of 125. An average of 18 planes go through there per day.

Best skin diving areas, according to Jimmy Tamura, who like most of the skin divers is from Hawaii and employed by

Group from the Wake Island Reef Diving and Shark Stabbing Association. They are preparing for a little free diving at reef's edge beyond farthest breaker line. Wreck of Japanese ship Suwa Maru in background. They are, left to right: Herman Gramberg, Jimmy Tamura, Sammy Lee (sitting), Alfred LaDoo, Mendel Morey, and William Ivison.



the Standard Oil Co., is on the leeward side of the island, where wave action is quiet, on the outer edge of the reef that surrounds the island.

The boys usually head for a stretch dominated by the beached wreck of a Japanese steamer, the Suwa Maru. They skin across the serrated reef edges in shallow water to the outer line where deep water begins and where there are ravines, caves, and holes with white sand bottoms.

Another way is to crowd into a rowboat with outboard motor, go out through a channel and pick a good spot along the reef.

First time out we went to the Suwa Maru spot. Once out in deep water the most colorful sight seen underwater met my mask. Visibility was 70 to 100 feet laterally and you could count the grains of sand on the bottom at 40 feet depth. But the boys said "Isn't so good today. Sometimes it's much better."

There were so many different exotic fish swimming about it seemed like a giant aquarium, filled with rare species. And the fish were so uneducated you could swim down and touch them with your spear point before they moved, provided you didn't kick your fins too vigorously.

The Hawaiian lads there use sling spears exclusively, something that caused them to lose one shark and one sting ray with a three-foot spread that they called an "eagle" ray. The five-foot shark and the ray fled into the blue yonder with the spears sticking out and no way of grabbing ahold of them.

Some of the visiting airline crew members, like Bill Ivison, of California Eastern Airlines—a lad from the L.A. area—have Arbaletes and thus can hang onto some of the elusive prey.

The Hawaiian boys don't use snorkels, claim they feel clumsy. When they want

to look around they let out half their breath and sink a couple of feet under.

Just the same they are very fast at spotting sharks, which appeared each time we dived. The sharks followed the classic pattern described by Cousteau, Hans Hass, Quilici and others. That is, there was no sign of them until fish were speared and flapped furiously on the hook. Soon the beautifully streamlined shapes of grey sharks, four to seven feet long, would appear just inside our visual horizon.

"Hey, there's Brudda Jack," one of the boys would yell.

I was without a spear or knife—just sightseeing—the first time one was spotted, a five footer. He looked enormous to me and I could notice the upper part of the tail fin sprouting out much longer than the lower lobe, just as in the pictures. My impulse was to get the hell out of there, but I managed to stay where I was so the boys wouldn't think I was chicken.

They said they aren't afraid of sharks, but wary of them. They want to keep them in sight so the creatures won't slip up behind, unseen. They said they haven't had a case of shark attacking when the diver was facing them.

If the shark did move toward them, they said, he would turn around and flee if they started charging him. And after sharks had been around a bit the boys would attempt to spear one of them.

On one occasion the shark they were after beat it, and another circling near and seeing this, also took off. The other time they chased a five-footer into shallow water over the reef. When attempting to elude one spearman he swam in front of another, giving him a good target. This was the "Brudda Jack" that ran off with the sling spear sticking in his tough hide.

Only one skin diver actually had a

shark attempt to bite. He is Phil Chase, Pan Am's chief mechanic on the island. He was finning back from spearfishing with a string of fish towing behind him.

He felt a jerk on his foot. Turned around and there was Brudda Jack making off with a black swimfin sticking out of his mouth. Phil was more mad at being left with just one fin than at a near miss.

The Standard Oil boys, including Jimmy Tamura, Sammy Lee, Mendal Morey, and Herman Gramberg, have one of the large-size Cornelius compressors. Each has an aqua-lung regulator, for the couple of dozen tanks they possess.

In free diving they find plenty of edible smaller fish, but for the big boys they lung-dive to 60- or 70-feet. Their favorite eating fish is called an "Ulua" in Hawaiian, and seems to be a species of Pompano. They spear these up to 20-pounds weight. Among the other fish they spear are rock cod, squirrel fish (of the red snapper family) goat fish, parrot fish, sea bass, and barracuda.

They see medium-size mantas occasionally, and all kinds of wierd fish like puffers, "stick" fish—two feet long and about as thick as a mop handle—fish with poisonous barbs, and then fish colored by nature in unbelievable variety. They don't have abalone but they do have those giant size clam type shellfish whose shells come together in wavy lines and are sometimes used as basins for drinking fountains and other decorative purposes.

The coral is colorful, ranging from rosy hues through chartreuse to bone white.

Non-skin divers on the beach warned me that you had better treat coral scratches and cuts with merthiolate or they would get "horribly infected." They said, "The little animals in the coral keep on living under your skin."

The skin divers laughed about this. I got a couple of good scratches on my ankle and left them alone, merely rubbing with sea water to remove any particles. They healed perfectly in 24 hours. There doesn't seem to be any ear fungus here either.

Residents also claimed you'd get a type of snow blindness from the glare of the white coral ground under the semi-tropical sun if you didn't wear dark glasses. You don't.

But nice as it is Wake isn't suitable for general skin diving expeditions. Costs too much to get there and the island doesn't boast any general accommodations for visitors. Just emergency dormitories for passengers delayed overnight.

Guaymas, La Paz and the Caribbean are much cheaper to reach and have fine accommodations, boats and all the rest.



ABOVE—Instructor Bill Hogan of the Scuba School watches as student makes his first jump with full equipment. BELOW—Instructors Hogan and Henry del'Giudice giving students last minute check before open sea launching . . . artificial respiration using an inner tube . . . and another feminine diver being checked before her first descent in ocean.—Photos by Dr. N. E. Mathison.

SCUBA SCHOOL OF THE SEA

The beginning of a very unique type of underwater instruction class was started recently with a selected group of students. The class was held during a cruise to Catalina Island and the instructors and observers aboard the class-ship opined that this type of training was very effective. Skin diving and Scuba training was given to the students in open waters, the same elements that they will use when they start putting their underwater equipment to use in their new-found sport.

With a ship's bell for a school bell the first class started at 7:30 a.m. and continued for three hours with Los Angeles Certified Instructors Bill Hogan and Henry Del'Giudice alternating on instruction subjects.

After arriving at the island open water exercises commenced with safety man Bob Bell and the instructors working in the water with the students. The buddy system was used and was instrumental in averting any serious accidents.

The instructors found that though the open water classes are more difficult the lessons are more definitely impressed on the students.



Californians Spend One Day At Key West

By CAPT. R. L. JONES

Twenty-five divers from the Los Angeles area were recently privileged to dive in the fabulous waters off Key West, Florida. Ed Ciesinski, top Key West skin diving boat operator, was a little apologetic because the visibility was down to a mere 75 feet. This "poor" visibility and the "cold water" (82°) hampered us some, but most of us were able to struggle along and have a wonderful time.

Our gang "The C.A.N.G. Flying Frogmen" is a special service activity within the 146 Fighter Interceptor Wing, California Air National Guard. It was formed with three main purposes in mind: (1) to emphasize and instruct water safety, (2) to be ready to assist local and state authorities wherever the services of fully equipped frogmen would help and (3) to provide an organization where we can get together and have a good time underwater.

Members of our club can fly in Air National Guard aircraft when space is available. This particular flight to Key West was made to fulfil navigational training requirements.

Now for some highlights of the trip. We chartered Ed's 25 foot cabin cruiser and the bottom fishing boat "Greyhound", 0730 found us all loaded aboard and headed for Pelican shoals, hoping for big fish and clear water. You can imagine the shouts of joy that rang out when we anchored and you could see a dime on the bottom in forty feet of water. Everyone went over the side in pairs exploring the reefs and watching the beautiful tropicals such as the spadefish, triggerfish and butterfly fish. A few Bermuda Chub were speared after patient stalking, but we were advised that they were inedible. Big Barracuda . . . fleet grey shadows . . . swam just out of spear range. An occasional hit was made but we lacked penetration. We decided to go after the more sedate grouper.

We put on our underwater breathing apparatus and headed down to a beautiful reef some 50 feet below. A giant green turtle slowly flippered past . . . seeming to know that he was not our game. We peered into all the overhangs and into caves and it was not long until we were rewarded. A large grouper was



C.A.N.G. FLYING FROGMEN members Malcolm Harwood and John Bard aboard the "Greyhound" with their catch for the day. Divers struggled through adverse Key West weather and water conditions. California Air National Guard Picture.

staring out of his cave at us with his glassy eyes. As soon as he turned two spears hit him, but these failed to keep him from holing up. It took much tugging and pulling to dislodge the fish from his castle. It was after the battle was all over that we learned we had been burned by fire coral. A small price to pay for such a prize.

Around 4:00 p.m. Tony, skipper of the Greyhound, decided that it was time to start home. He had to start his engine and threaten to leave before some of us could be coaxed out of the water.

That evening as we took off from Boca Chica Naval Air Station on the first leg of our flight home the Navy personnel of this station cooperated so completely that they deserve mention. Our trip was a huge success with their help.

For more information about the California Air National Guard and the C.A.N.G. Flying Frogmen club call Capt. R. L. Jones at EX 8-5652, Los Angeles, California.

Michigan . . .

BATTLE CREEK SUB NORMES

By SHERMAN SCHOTT

Almost every weekend this summer, which has finally come to a close, has the club in some local lake or on a trip to a spot on Lake Michigan. Like our sister club in Ann Arbor the trip to Pentwater and the sunken ship Anna C. Minch, turned out very disappointing. We didn't find her either. We have also spent several weekends trying to find the sunken Novedoc, which was down near Hart, Mich. After three trips it still hasn't been found but Joe Roen, Ken Williams, Gordon Garmes, and Dave Morse are still sure that it can be found and are going to try again.

Rod Griggs and Gordon Garmes finally brought forth their sub, which was made from a jet wing tank, named the Sub Normal. It has turned out to be a big success and several more are being planned as winter projects.

To get to the business side of our skin diving for the summer, Ken Williams retrieved an outboard motor, and Dick Conklin, Joe Roen, and Rod Griggs were asked to retrieve an inboard motor boat but were beaten to it by divers from Kalamazoo.

SAN DIEGO DIVERS DANCE—A dance and shindig will be held at the U.C.T. Hall, 4569 30th Street, San Diego, California, starting at 9 p.m. and ending ???, on November 12, 1955. Admission will be \$1.00. Prizes and fun galore. Everyone invited. Contact Chuck Boswell, 3549 Wilcox St., Point Loma, San Diego, California, or call Academy 3-7641 for tickets.

Don't miss this FIRST in this area.

SEAHORSE CONTEST WINNERS

The following is a list of names of the winners in the First Annual Florida Skin Divers Headquarters, Inc. Spearfishing Contest which closed September 5, 1955, and was sponsored by the Bartelt Bros. of the Seahorse Motel..

Barracuda: 1st place Trophy to Roland G. Haines, Jr., Trenton, N. J. weight of fish 19 lbs. 2nd place Arthur A. Sundt, Valley Stream, N. Y.; 3rd place Trophy to Carl Cooper, Atlanta, Ga.

Snapper: 1st place Trophy to Fred Robert's, Milwaukee, Wisc. weight of fish 7 lbs. 4 oz., 2nd place Trophy to Prof. Roger Bender, Pittsburgh, Penna; 3rd place Trophy to Richard Kranz, St. Louis, Mo.

Jacks: 1st place Trophy to Jack Lighty, Ann Arbor, Mich. weight 13 lbs. 4 oz.; 2nd place Trophy to Ted Stockton, Ann Arbor, Mich.; 3rd place Larry Hendricks, Mont Clair, N. J.

Grouper: 1st place Trophy to Jerold White, Dexter, Mich. weight 37 lbs. 8 oz.; 2nd place Trophy to Carl D. Rufus, Dearborn, Mich.; 3rd place Trophy to Frank Reeves, Los Angeles, Calif.

A Contest will also be held during this year's Christmas Holiday Season and all spearfishermen who will be in the Florida Keys at that time are invited to participate in this event. There will also be a special class for women.

DIVING AROUND SAN DIEGO

By JIM MERTEN

Off La Jolla, during October, skin diving was at its peak. Many large yellowtail Tuna have been seen by divers and here are a few of those weighed in: Al Larsen, 56½-lbs., Jim Hagedorn, 48-lbs., Bill Leights, 43 lbs, Bill Howard, 41 lbs.

Jim Hagedorn is the boy that really had trouble landing his 48-pounder. Jim got this mammoth tuna off La Jolla one morning and, not using break-a-way gear, really was tangled in the kelp. After a hour-long battle he swam to shore with his prize catch. The Court Room restaurant in La Jolla presented Jim with a check for \$100 for his feat.

Black Sea Bass are also being seen, and landed, in good numbers, with these boys leading the list: Frank Lienhaupel, 93-lbs., Al Larsen, 215-lbs., and Dan Stevens, 145-lbs.

Bill Howard also brought in a 42-lb. White Sea Bass, while Al Larsen captured an 80-lb. Soupin Shark.

Tom Simpson and Dick Ridenour are to be credited with lots of legwork in connection with the City of San Diego aqua Lung Training Program which started in September.

New California ...

LOBSTER LAWS

At the 1955 session of the California Legislature important changes were made in the law relative to the size limit on lobsters and also as to method of measuring lobsters.

Section 783 of the Fish and Game Code was repealed and reenacted. This section changes the size limit for lobsters from 10½ inches, measured from one extremity to the other, to 3¼ inches measured in a straight line from the rear edge of the eye socket to the rear edge of the body shell, both points to be on the mid-line of the back. This new size limit corresponds to the 10½ inch size limit under the former manner of measuring. The diagram below illustrates where the measurement should be taken on the lobster.

Section 971 of the Fish and Game Code was repealed and reenacted, and in effect specifies the type of lobster trap that may be used. Section 971 reads as follows:

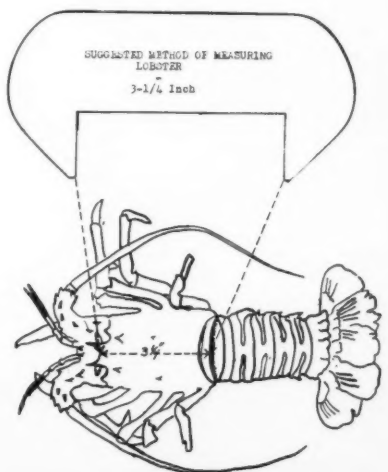
"Lobster traps may be used to take spiny lobster in Districts 18, 19, 20A, and those portions of District 20 lying on the southerly side of Santa Catalina Island between Southeast Rock and China Point. Wire traps shall be built of rectangular mesh with inside mesh measurement not less than two inches by four inches, the four inch measurement to be parallel to the floor of the trap. Traps built of lath or other material must have along the full length of two sides openings to allow escape of shorts. Such openings shall be clearly accessible to the lobsters and of a spacing of not less than two inches and such spacing must be located parallel to, and not more than two inches above the floor of the trap.

Lobster traps may be used to take spiny lobsters, rock crabs and sheephead only, and any other species taken in such traps shall be released. Such traps may be used only during the season prescribed for spiny lobsters in Section 782. Spiny lobsters may be taken in any districts by the use of the hands in the manner commonly known as skin diving or by the use of a self contained underwater breathing apparatus; provided, that spiny lobsters so taken may not be sold."

These changes in the lobster law mentioned above become law on September 8, 1955, and were in effect on the opening of the lobster season October 1, 1955.



DOUG BURTON shown here at the first of the season at San Nicholas, displays to one and all the shape and form of the California Lobster. Many have not yet found these creatures for themselves.—Mart Taggweiler Photos.





UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS—Watch Hill, Rhode Island, August 28, 1955. The four winners from left to right are: George Craig, 1st place; Dennis Hurley, 2nd place; Carl Thornton, 3rd place and Jim Barrister, honorable mention.—Photo by Bernard L. Gordon, submitted by Stef Tjaarda.

DREAMS OF HAWAII

By VERNON R. CRAITE

As I sit here in chilly Detroit looking at these pictures of the world's greatest sport it reminds me of the many happy hours I spent skin diving with my friends in Hawaii. I have been around the world and dived in many places such as the blue Mediterranean, the China Sea and our own east and west coasts but no place is to be compared with the warm, chystal clear waters of the blue Pacific around the Hawaiian Islands. The beds of coral, the multicolored tropical fish and the enchanting underwater caverns around the islands make a literal fairyland. This fairyland can also be dangerous as there are many sharks and many more moray eels. Our skin diving parties have encountered many of both species. Picture one is Roy Calcott of Hawaii with a moray eel on his spear. The eel tried once too often to take the fish away from him. We all used the free spear in the Arbaletes and got the best of results with it. All our shots have to be broadside though. As one swims along every turn of the head opens up new horizons and leaves one filled with wonderment.

Sharks were very numerous and we always encountered several of them every time we went out. They were easily discouraged from getting too close by making a loud hooting noise through our mouthpiece. I used to kid the boys by telling them not to scare the sharks away so I could get a picture of one.

Many turtles were speared and landed. The largest one being about 300 pounds, speared by Bob Fuller of Buffalo, New York. He was a monster and almost turned the boat over when we pulled him in. The turtle steaks were very good eating.

The underwater camera used was a Kodak Bantam 828 with a f:6.3 lens opening, a fixed shutter, and a yellow light filter. The water was so clear that at the depth of a hundred feet we could see around two hundred feet in any direction. The waterproof box was made by myself out of one quarter inch plexiglass and two water valves, one to click the shutter and one to turn the film. Without the filter beautiful two-by-two colored 35mm slides were taken also. I have had the camera down to the depth of 100 feet without a leak.

I made the camera while in a hospital recuperating from a three way underwater battle between myself, a moray eel, and a surgeon fish. I went to the hospital to get sewed up, the surgeon fish went to the eel, and the eel came out on top with a good hearty meal. I have a nice scar to remind me of the incident.

There are many more interesting experiences to be related at another time. I also wish to say hello to all my friends in Hawaii and elsewhere. ☛

George Craig Wins Individual Eastern Competition

By STEF TJAARDA

This event attracted 73 spearmen of the East Coast. Sponsored by Oceanic Research Associates and by local clubs, the event became directed by the Eastern Council of Skin Diving Clubs who demonstrated a unique arrangement as to the running of the tournament. With a walky-talky system, they kept in close touch with the safety boats which were stationed at the staging area, while 73 spearmen tried their best at catching the largest fish. The event was held on an individual basis with the largest single catch to be competed. Hundreds lined the Watch Hill Lighthouse station to see the spectacle. The weather was fine, although some wind made incoming and outgoing, tough. Besides a few scratches everybody had a good time and the tournament may be called a success, while the officials got some sound practical experience from the event.

Officials of the meet, were: Garnett Major, Nathan Pollack, Judy Leturmy, John Irving, Elman Myers, Donald Robinson, Edward Leturmy and Stef Tjaarda.

Although the waters of Watch Hill, Rhode Island contain other fish besides Tautog (Blackfish), this seemed the main catch of the day. Approximately 36 fish were speared, all of them Tautogs only one lobster as a different catch. Winners of the Tournament were: George R. Craig, aged 18 of the Underwater Fisherman of New Jersey, with a single catch weighing 7 lbs. 5 ounces. Second was Dennis J. Hurley, aged 28, of the Hartford Frogman Club in Connecticut, with a weight of 7.3. Third prize went to Carl Thornton, aged 43 of the Rhode Island Underwater Spearfishing Club. A Honorary Mention was won by an entry from Massachusetts. Trophies were donated by the Council of Skin Diving Clubs, Oceanic Research Associates, Aero & Physicians Gas Co., and by Savitt Jewelers Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut. ☛



Roy Calcott spears Hawaiian eel.

South Africa . . .

Durban Underseas Club

By GORDON TUMLEY

The Durban Undersea Club was formed in 1952 and was the first organization in the Union of South Africa to cater solely for Underwater Sportsmen.

Skin living first started in this country in 1926 but it soon died out and it was not until after World War II that the sport began to really catch on.

Boasting a membership of over 150, the D.U.C. offers its members many facilities. Beginners joining the club are given instruction in both Surf Diving and the use of the Aqua-Lung and Closed-Circuit breathing apparatus. These are carried out at the regular 'outdoor' meetings when members fish in competition for the various club trophies.

It was realized early in the history of the Durban Undersea Club that, although spearfishing would always be the main form of diving activity here, the future of the underwater sport would lie in the field of Marine Research. The club is affiliated to the South African Association of Marine Biological Research and two D.U.C. members are at present serving on the Association's Executive Council. Work begins this year on Durban's new Marine Research Station and Aquarium which, when completed, will be the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

The results of this work by the D.U.C. have been excellent. Several rare specimens have been forwarded to the Club's President, Professor J. L. B. Smith (of Coelacanth or "living Fossil" fame) but the pride of the Group is CARAPUS REEDI. This little pearl fish was discovered by our Research Divers and it showed the value of skin diving for Marine Research, as the fish was hitherto unknown to science.

Plans are now well advanced for the forming of a Federation of South African Diving Clubs which will be designed to promote not only National Competitions for the sport but put our divers on an international basis. We believe this can be done and the next two years may well see "Springbok" spearfishermen travelling to Europe to meet enthusiasts from the U. S. A. and other countries.

We believe too, that soon the sport will be recognized as a basis for world competition and soon the day of goodwill and fellowship among all who go underwater is near at hand.

South African Eugene Franken, member of D.U.C., with a Caraux speared recently near Durban, South Africa. Franken and fellow club members divide their time underwater between fishing and marine research.



"SECRETS OF THE UNDERWATER WORLD"

Photographed by DIMITRI REBIKOFF
Narrated by PAUL CHERNEY
Schedule of Presentations

November, 1955—1st. Eastman Kodak Company, Foremen's Club, Rochester, New York; 3rd. Westfield PTA, Westfield, New Jersey; 9th. Ypsilanti, Michigan; 18th. Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Conn.; 22nd. New Bedford, Mass. (Brooks Club); 26th. Southwestern Junior College, Keene, Texas; 28th. Amarillo Town Hall Assoc. Amarillo, Texas; and 30th. Dallas Woman's Club, Dallas, Texas.

December, 1955 — 1st. Pecos Country Club, Pecos, Texas; 14th. Museum of Arts and Sciences, Rochester, New York.

January, 1956 — 5th. Woman's Club, Roland Park, Baltimore, Md.; 17th. Holland, Michigan; 24th. Chicago, Illinois.

February, 1956 — 12th. Town Hall Club, Portland, Maine; 14th. Sioux City, Iowa; 16th. Kansas City, Missouri; and 28th. Minneapolis, Minn.

March, 1956—2nd. Ilium Club, Troy, New York; 13th. Westminster College, New Wilmington, Penna.; and 20th. American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Lynn, Mass.

May 19, 1956, Westown School, Westown, Penna.

Should any individuals or clubs wish further information about the above dates or future dates of the presentation of this spectacular underwater film contact the Redpath Bureau, 507 Rockingham Street, Rochester 20, New York.

LONG BEACH YMCA TO OFFER FALL COURSE

By AL FISH

The Long Beach YMCA has strengthened its skin diving instruction personnel with addition to the staff of Dr. Nelson Mathison, widely known authority and expert in the field of skin diving and underwater sports. Dr. Mathison joins with the head instructor Rory Page and assistant Harry Vetter in offering the sixth series of Skin Diving and SCUBA training classes, scheduled to begin on Wednesday, November 9, 1955.

Following closely on the heels of the very successful summer class for more than 30 men and women, it is anticipated that a great number of people will be interested in the fall and winter classes since some of the outdoors activity tend to diminish because of the colder weather and water. All classes in the new series will be conducted in the swimming pool of the Long Beach 'Y', where adequate facilities and guard services are provided at all times.

Persons enrolling in the November class will be indoctrinated in all phases of skin diving and the use of the underwater breathing apparatus. Both theory and practical water work are a part of the teaching method.

All 'Y' classes are open to both men and women who have passed their 16th birthday. Reservations for the class may be made by contacting 'Y' Physical Director Al Fish at 600 American Ave., Long Beach, Calif.—phone HEMlock 7-3538. There will be room for about 40 reservations.



It's all in fun — Bob Ketcham tries to make some extra points by fishing the bait tank during the contest. Homer Lockwood can be seen at the extreme lower left hand corner as he starts to get in the water. — Pic by Shep Shepard.

Spinners, Plungers and Divers . . .

Anglers Defeat Spearfishermen in Contest

By BILL BARADA

California skin divers are dusting off their rods and reels after the results of our recent contest with the anglers. We were not only soundly beaten, we didn't even come close. The spin tackle enthusiasts won the medals, the plungers (conventional anglers) came in second, and the spearmen brought up a poor third. However, winning the contest was secondary to the lessons learned by everyone aboard the boat and the fun we all had.

This contest was the result of an old, long standing rhubarb between the spinners, Spider web fishermen, the regular anglers call them, and the plungers as the spinners call conventional anglers. The skin divers got into the act because I talked too loud over a beer one night.

The plungers have accused the spinners of lousing up the fishing on party boats by losing too many fish and taking too long to land the ones they do catch. Spinners claim that the plungers are just jealous because the spinners catch more fish. Both of them firmly believe that skin divers loused up fishing for everyone and were worse than seals in the water.

We decided to all operate from one boat so that we would fish the same waters under equal conditions. We also decided to work on a point system so the contest would be fair to everyone. We selected fish which would give each method a fair break and only five fish would be counted.

Fishing started while it was still dark as soon as the boat anchored off Catalina Island. The chumming of the boat operators soon had barracuda, yellowtail and tuna boiling around the boat but only a few were hooked. None were boated. The skin divers were forced to wait until day-break before entering the water but we all agreed that the early start was fair because the fish quit biting later in the day and the skin divers would have an advantage at that time. Just before dawn, the spinners landed two barracuda.

As soon as it was light enough, the skin divers entered the water and began hunting. We worked around the boat but stayed for enough out so we would not interfere with casting. At the first location, several divers sighted and followed white sea bass, yellowtail and even tuna but none of us could get close enough for

a shot. Some of us went in close to shore where we could work shallow water for bass and sheephead but here again we had bad luck. The fish were visiting some place else that day. The anglers were catching a few of the open water bass and an occasional sheephead which we could see but could not approach. Finally the skipper whistled us to come aboard for another move as the fishing was slowing down.

While the skin divers were swarming around the boat climbing aboard, a nine pound calico bass was hooked and a giant grouper followed it to the surface. When the bass was landed, it showed teeth marks of the grouper. When the divers went down in search of the monster, it had disappeared. Also at this time, yellowtail and barracuda were hooked right over the heads of the divers.

Toward late afternoon, the anglers actually began to feel sorry for us and Eddie McEwen tried to put the boat in the best spearfishing spots we could name. The entire lee side of Catalina was covered. Finally at Church Rock we found some rough water and a few fish we could get close enough to spear. Homer Lockwood took a 14-pound sheephead. Even here, the anglers took more fish than we did. When the contest ended, both teams of anglers had more than twice as many points as the divers and about ten or twenty times as many fish. The spinners beat the plungers by a few points.

Every angler, diver and observer on this trip was extremely impressed by the compatibility of the three groups. With rivalry running high, we learned that spinners, plungers and skin divers can fish from the same boat, have a wonderful time and everyone catch fish.

I believe, from snatches of conversation overheard, that the line fishermen were surprised at the poor showing of the divers. From pictures and stories they had read of our sport, they fully expected us to be able to drop into the water at any time and at any place and take our choice of fish. They believed that the giant fish taken by divers was an every day occurrence and some of them thought the ocean was swarming with big fish waiting for us to spear them. For awhile, they even believed that we were deliberately throwing the contest. We were just worried about being skunked. Probably we skin divers are ourselves responsible for the propaganda about our ability to take a lot of fish.

The skin diving team members were, Homer Lockwood, Woody Dimel, Bob Givens, Bill Lemon, Johnny Hall, Doc Schreiber, John Backus, Gene Daniels, Gene Davies, Bob Earle, Ray Welland.

OUR WET WORLD by JOE GORNALL

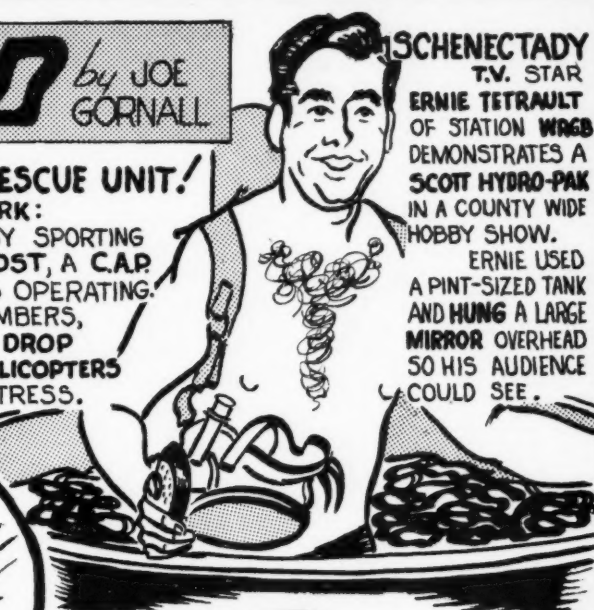


LT. COL. EDWIN LYONS
COMMANDER OF THE NASSAU
GROUP, CIVIL AIR PATROL,
RELAYS A CALL FOR HELP
TO A WAITING HELICOPTER
AND A LIFE SAVING FROGMAN

SKIN DIVERS IN AIR-SEA RESCUE UNIT!

NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK:

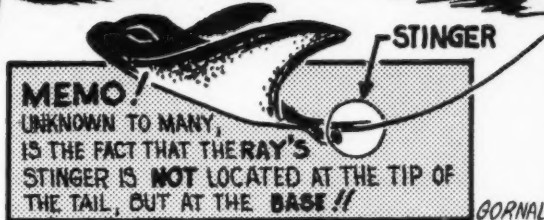
FROM AN IDEA CONCEIVED BY SPORTING
GOODS DEALER, **ARNOLD POST**, A C.A.P.
AIR-SEA RESCUE TEAM IS OPERATING.
THE UNIT CONTAINS 16 MEMBERS,
MEN AND WOMEN, WHO DROP
INTO THE SEA FROM HELICOPTERS
TO AID PEOPLE IN DISTRESS.



SCHENECTADY
T.V. STAR

ERNIE TETRAULT
OF STATION **WRGB**
DEMONSTRATES A
SCOTT HYDRO-PAK
IN A COUNTY WIDE
HOBBY SHOW.

ERNIE USED
A PINT-SIZED TANK
AND HUNG A LARGE
MIRROR OVERHEAD
SO HIS AUDIENCE
COULD SEE.



MEMO!
UNKNOWN TO MANY,
IS THE FACT THAT THE RAY'S
STINGER IS NOT LOCATED AT THE TIP OF
THE TAIL, BUT AT THE BASE!!

GORNALL

Illinois . . .

ILLINI AQUA-SCOUTS, INC.

By **BOB WELLER**

The Illini Aqua-Scouts, Inc. was organized in June as an underwater sports club dedicated to the advancement of safe "skin diving" in the central Illinois area. The club by-laws safety code, and swimming and diving tests were drawn up with safety as the main objective.

Great emphasis is also placed on co-operation with other sportsmen. Our waters are somewhat limited in Illinois so we must get along together. We are members of the Illinois Federation of Sportsmen Clubs. Through the cooperation of Dr. Geo. Bennett of the Illinois State Natural History Survey we are now conducting an experiment in spearfishing in Illinois. We hope the findings of this experiment will help the state agencies in properly evaluating the controls necessary for safety and conservation.

California . . .

CONGERS

By **LEWIS COOK JR.**

Last September 25, 1955, we held our first big family outing at Monastery Beach. In the morning about fifteen skin divers, most of them from the California Congers, rented a large fishing boat at Monterey, and went out for a lung dive. The day turned out very successfully,

with visibility about forty five feet, and everybody getting a good catch of ling cod, blue fish and perch. After this all the families gathered at Monastery beach for a big fish fry.

We also made a week end trip down to the coastal inlets around Big Sur. We found clear water and tons of kelp, but no fish. The California Congers are also very interesting in trying to get the Del Monte Properties open to skin diving, which we are working on right now.

New York . . .

SCHENECTADY "Y" SKIN-DIVING CLUB

By **F. J. MORCERF**

This past summer found twelve of our members taking part in an underwater show during a racing regatta on Lake Champlain. As guests of the Lake Champlain Reef Runners they helped in a rescue demonstration involving recovering a "victim" from deep water in slightly over one minute starting from a point about three-hundred feet away. The "victim" here was not in too much danger since some friends were waiting for him in the depths with diving lungs enough to keep him healthy for a long time.

In an attempt to make our club more useful to the community, we are setting

up what we call the "Tri-City Rescue Service". This will consist of a squad of our members who will be on stand-by notice to respond to any emergency requiring diving into deep water. All civic and defense agencies in the area will have this service available at no charge all year round.

Guam . . .

ANDERSON SKIN DIVER CLUB

By **EUGENE TUCKER**

A skin diving club has recently been formed at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam under the auspices of the 3d Air Division, commanded by General Nils O. Ohman. The club will serve two purposes. To expand Guam's Air Force recreational facilities and will serve as an auxiliary sea rescue team to aid in search for persons washed beyond the reefs surrounding Guam. Under the supervision of Joseph C. Campbell, a professional diver, airmen are currently learning diving safety and how to operate lungs in the base swimming pool.

Shortly, the club plans open sea exercises where they will be lowered by helicopter to stimulate deep-sea rescue operations. All training activities are executed under the utmost safety conditions.



FLORIDA SKIN DIVERS HOLD MEETING AT SILVER SPRINGS—The Florida Skindivers' Association has just completed their annual meeting at Florida's Silver Springs. An unusual aspect of the meeting was the fact that the first business session was held underwater. Of course, this was done for the movie, newsreel and still cameramen who were covering the event. There were approximately 125 in attendance which is the largest attendance of a state meeting to date. Another event that took place during their stay at Silver Springs, was a spear fishing trip down the Silver and Ocklawaha Rivers to rid the rivers of the destructive Gar Fish. This hunt was supervised by Wildlife Officers Land, Hall, and Wiggins, of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, because it is unlawful to spear fish in fresh water without the permission and direct supervision of the Commission.



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have called the best
yet published on

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153 E. 24th St., New York

High Seas...

H.M.A.S. VENGEANCE UNDERWATER CLUB

By P. O. FOORD

The "H.M.A.S. Vengeance" Underwater Club was formed in April 1954 with 13 keen swimmers, sporting two guns, three sets of flippers, two snorkels and a handspear. The outing wasn't successful as regards fish, but the scenery was of great interest. After our first outing we decided to publish a magazine, to attract new members, before our trip was completed we had 52 on the books.

Since this day our membership, has always been around 40 each trip. We have purchased an "Underwater" camera and a projector, through the help of our shipmates, and now have a fine club. We have placed ourselves at the Commanding Officers disposal, as regards any type of work, in or near the water, and already have carried out two jobs successfully.

Having swam on the "Great Barrier Reef" in company with the "Grey Nurse", "Tiger", and Bronze Whaler shark, we have our theories regarding sharks. Our catches have always been successful, but the biggest was a 60-lb. "Gropser". This is only because we have to look after our equipment, because of the time lag securing replacements.

Our aim is to, through our members leaving the ship for others, to start new clubs afloat, and eventually make spearfishing a legal sport in the R. A. N.

Washington...

PUGET SOUND MUDSHARKS

The Mudsharks, including many other people are particularly proud of two members of our spearfishing organization, Gary Keffler and Ted Rothlesberger. After other divers had failed, Gary and Ted helped locate and salvage an airplane that had crashed and sank in a lake. The battered plane was located at a depth of a 110-ft. in a sunken forest.

Visability was one to two foot so the boys didn't have it easy. Most of the time diving was spent in recovering three bodies from the sunken aircraft.

As far as spearfishing goes most of the Mudsharks are keeping their freezers full. Many ling cod have been taken from 10-to 38-lbs. Jim Blanchard related an interesting experience. Jim found an eel that was orange with black stripes and was two foot in length. This is very unusual because most of the veteran skin divers have never seen a eel in our waters.

California . . .

AQUA ADDICTS

By DOLORES WOOD

On Sunday, September 25th, the first annual invitational skin diving tournament of the California Aqua Addicts of San Luis Obispo was held at Morro Bay, California. Teams and singles contestants represented eight Northern and Central California skin diving clubs. Over 3,000 spectators turned out to watch the contest. At the end of the meet 465 pounds of fish were offered to the spectators. Only one fish, a skate, went to waste. Divers and spectators went home happy and ready to return next year.

The first place trophy in the team competition went to Leigh Allen, Wesley Kander and Stew Kipp of the Poly Divers for 81 pounds and one ounce of fish. Leigh Allen also won first place singles for his 41 pounds, 12 ounces of fish.

The second place team, the Monterey Peninsula Sea Otters, took 59 pounds, 13 ounces. The Santa Barbara Blue Fins and the Oakland Eels placed third and fourth respectively with 50 pounds 9½ ounces and 49 pounds 13 ounces.

Roy Hattori of the Sea Otters caught the largest fish, a 10 pound Cabazone, and placed second in the singles with a total catch of 42 pounds one ounce of fish. Third place in the singles went to Jack Tees of the Eels and fourth to Diego Terres of the Poly Divers.

Other teams competing were the Bakersfield Frogmen, the Shell Beach Aqua-Ducks and the Central California Cormorants of San Jose. Lompoc was represented in the singles.

Prizes awarded were two trophies to the first and second place teams, a dinner at a local restaurant for a team, and abirons for another team. Two guns and fins and a mask were awarded to the singles contestants.

Florida . . .

CORAL CAVE MEN OF TREASURE ISLAND

By JOHN STEPHAN

On our list of achievements is the completion of our Constitution. A number of weeks ago we went to one of the Islands north of here. The water was both clear and calm so we got in some good diving time.

One thing that we are very fortunate to have right here at club headquarters is apartments. Through these we get a chance to meet other skin divers. We own the apartments which are right close to the gulf.

We are going to see if we can get some more publicity for our club and the sport through the local newspaper. For those divers who don't know our address here it is 9901 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg 6, Fla.

INVITATIONAL CONTEST WINNERS—Shown here with fish and trophies are Wesley Kander, Stew Kipp, Leigh Allen and Roy Hattori. The competition was sponsored by the Aqua Addicts at Morro Bay, California.



Kentucky . . .

"MERMEN OF KENTUCKY"

By ESTILL E. LYONS

Scuba Diving in Kentucky is here to stay. The Mermen intend to make it as safe as possible for all concerned. We are now part of the Lexington Y.M.C.A. Aquatic Program.

One night each week we offer instructions, discussions and demonstrations to the public. We even furnish all the equipment and charge only for the refills.

From this experience we would like to recommend to all "Y's" and the American Red Cross, that they incorporate in their Aquatic Program; Scuba Diving. These organizations have and are still doing a wonderful Water Safety Program, but there is now an even increasing need for the teaching of safety in this new field of aquatics.

By working through the Y.M.C.A., we have been able to promote good will, recognition and a lot of favorable publicity. In return for these services we are requesting the Y.M.C.A. to assist us in our efforts for a longer spearfishing season. We are confident of success.

New York . . .

COLLEGE POINT UNDERWATER CLUB

By DON ERDLEY

We are proud to announce the forming of a new club in our district. We have been in operation for 7 weeks and have an active membership of thirty. Our club has held its 14th meeting and have gone on a number of spearfishing trips. Our last outing took us to an abandoned mine up in the Bear Mountains. It gave the appearance of a large cave with three

New York . . .

L. I. MANTA RAYS

By BUDDY SMITH

Last winter a group of fellows on Long Island decided to form a skin diving club. We passed the word around that we were looking for fellows, aged sixteen to nineteen, who were interested in the sport. On December 11, 1954 we had eight diving enthusiasts and held our first official meeting.

The first problem that confronted our newly born organization was the choice of a name and after three weeks of choosing, arguing, and re-choosing we chose the name Manta Rays because of the motto that could be made out of the letters in the name;

Make A Noble Try And Remember Always Your Safety.

We are now eleven months old, and have fifteen members representing; Uniondale, Eastmeadow, Levittown, Westbury, Roosevelt, Wantagh, and South Hempstead.

shafts filled with spring water. The water was much colder than we expected, however, four of our more advanced scuba's reached 30 feet before coming up a little on the bluish side.

We work together with the Conservation Dept. in every way. To date we have taken over 600 star fish out of our waters which we are sure will be a great help to clam and oyster beds. So far we have a 100 per cent safety record which is due to the rigid training course our members must pass before becoming a scuba.



DELANO WETBACKS
Luigi Chiarappa and Leon Ragsdale putting a screen over an irrigation pump in the Friant-Kern Canal to prevent moss from clogging the suction pipe. A new type of diver, agricultural.

California . . .

DELANO WETBACKS

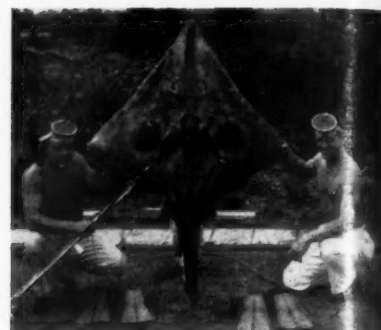
By LUIGI CHIARAPPA

We selected our club name because of its popularity among the San Joaquin Valley farmers and, like our friends from south of the border, we have to travel several miles in order to get . . . wet.

Our activity is one most diversified: Ocean, lakes, rivers, pools, ponds, and canals are all good for real . . . wetbacks! Speaking about canals, some of our members have organized a special

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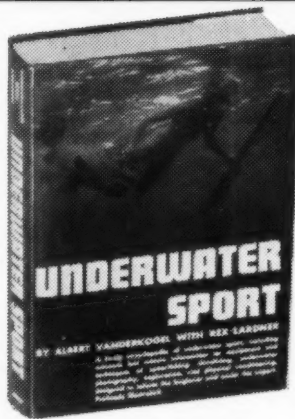
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"If you're interested in skin diving this is very definitely your book."

— Dallas Times Herald

Underwater Sport



By **ALBERT VANDERKOGEL** with **REX LARDNER**

In more than fifteen years of skin diving, lung diving, spearfishing and taking underwater pictures, Albert VanderKogel has learned just about all there is to know about sport diving—and has tested almost every type of equipment on the market, from nose clips to Hydro-Paks. His book tells you where to go for the best hunting and photography, how to stalk and hunt fish, how to make money from your hobby. It gives you professional advice on the best equipment—guns, camera housings, snorkels, SCUBA. All told, it's the most complete book on underwater sport—and the most detailed, expert manual on underwater safety—ever published.

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B. W. I. . . .

UNDERWATER MISSILES

By N. L. KENNEDY

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We Underwater Missiles are stationed on the island of Eleuthera, British West Indies, geographically located only about fifty miles from beautiful Nassau. Our island extends about ninety-eight miles from tip to tip, thus providing superlative fishing waters. The club at the present time consists of about fifteen members, whose enthusiasm seems to grow with each venture into these wonderful blue and green waters of the Caribbean. All of us participate with mask, snorkel, fins, and gun as well as lungs.

Many hours a week are spent in the clear waters surrounding the island and all of us wish that many more hours could be spent in our underwater world. Some of our Eleutheran catches we consider rather spectacular. Just recently taken on a hand spear with line attached was an eight foot sawfish. The commotion that he put up with his huge bill was at times rather frightening. One of the missiles dived in along side, cutting his fins and tail which caused a decided decrease in the monster's movements. We do not recommend sawfish as a playmate after looking at spear and line. The broad bill caused devastating damage to both line and spear.

Among the variety of the finny family taken so far has been a ray which weighed in at one hundred and fifty pounds. On one occasion a 6 foot blue shark was speared with two spears but broke both lines and headed for the deep.

Since the time we first formed the Underwater Missiles, it has been an underwater law for our members to strictly adhere to the "Buddy" system. In doing so, each of us has learned to recognize all rules of safety, the sporting rules of skin diving, thus creating for each member protection and pleasure that could not otherwise be had.

New York . . .

SYRACUSE AQUA KINGS

By "WEAK EARS" POE

We wish to add our club to the rapidly growing list of fresh water diving clubs around the country. Although the Aqua Kings is a new club we have several

members with diving experience in both ocean and lake diving. We plan to expand our activity next season by making several visits to the coast for more salt water experience.

For a new club we are quite well-equipped. About eighty percent of the members have SCUBA units and, although there are only a few rubber suits now, I'm sure that the cooler weather will raise our percentage in that category. We have one underwater camera in the club with the hopes of building several more during the winter months.

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DELANO WETBACKS
Luigi Chiarappa and Leon Ragsdale putting a screen over an irrigation pump in the Friant-Kern Canal to prevent moss from clogging the suction pipe. A new type of diver, agricultural.

California . . .

DELANO WETBACKS

By LUIGI CHIARAPPA

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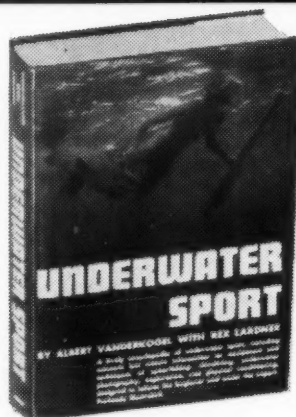
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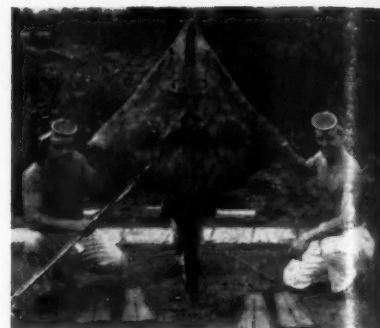


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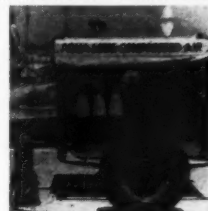
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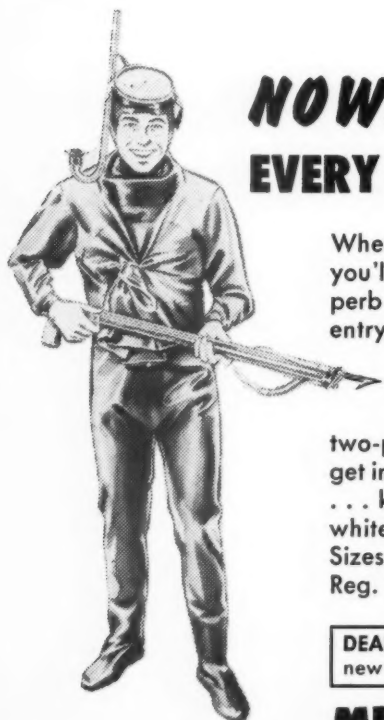
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TELEGRAPH AT TWENTY-FIFTH • OAKLAND 12, CALIF.

Scotland...

DUNDEE SUB-AQUA CLUB
By ROGER M. BRUCE

In July a number of the club went across to the West of Scotland and had a camping holiday near Oban, there they found the water to be quite warm and very clear. While they were there Allan Doyle shot a four and a half-foot long Dogfish, and the others shot flatfish and Mackerel.

Some members went for a camping week-end to Marley Loch where they shot numerous perch, but owing to the extremely warm weather the water was beginning to turn green due to the formation of algae.

The next discovery was that the River Tay, which is world famous for its Salmon fishing, held Pearl bearing fresh water mussels, so after some investigations we discovered where these were to be found and set off to see what we could do about it. We discovered that the mussels do not live in the fast running water of the river but in the backwaters and when we found them all that one can see is a pink portion of them about one inch long. Three members, Stanley Stamper, Jim Pope and Allan Doyle removed about three hundred mussels from which they were able to find twelve pearls which they were able to sell six of them at £1 each. This bed was soon exhausted and when we were in the river it was at the time it was very low owing to the drought. Some members were attempting to take flounders and eels with sling spears and then the water bailiff came along and accused us of trying to take Salmon from the river illegally. His suspicions were soon allayed when he saw the pearls.

Some of the 'locals' do this as a very well paying sideline and were very annoyed to find that "aw they frogmen hae been bettin' a the guid pearls."

California...

LOCKHEED SKIN DIVERS
By JOY HEDLEY

We have had a very busy summer. Most of the boat trips to the nearby islands have been so overloaded that we have had to add extra trips to take care of everyone. Also have enjoyed many weekend camping trips up and down the coast as far south as Punta Banda, Mexico (Horrors, what a road!), and as far north as Gaviota.

An impromptu gathering of about 15 of our members at Point Dume last Saturday resulted in Larry Utterback bringing up a 10 inch abalone, and Frank Oling catching a six pound Cabazone by hand. Frank never lets a little thing like not having his spear with him hinder him from snagging a by-passing fish.

CLUB
BRUCE

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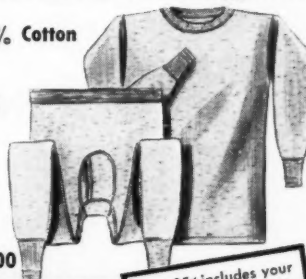


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28—NOVEMBER—SKIN DIVER

Isle of Jersey . . .

SUB-AQUA CLUB OF JERSEY

By JIM SCRIVEN

Greetings from Britain's oldest Sub-Aqua Club, to be exact, the Sub-Aqua Club of Jersey. Channel Islands, which was formed in February, 1953. The Club it itself a subscriber to the "Skin Diver" and several members have taken out subscriptions also.

Here are a few brief details concerning the Jersey club. There are now over 70 members of whom 30 to 40 are active fishermen; the remainder very kindly support us with their subscriptions. The accent on activities at the present is on fishing and 4 trophies are competed for annually for the heaviest weight of fish, the greatest number of fish, the heaviest fish and for most points obtained throughout the season on club excursions. The club meets twice a week during the summer months on Thursday and Sunday afternoons and these excursions are in charge of a club captain, normally a member of the executive committee.

The breathing units are owned by the club but private members have a further dozen. The most popular weapon is the Nemrod Spanish Compressed air gun which has given entire satisfaction.

Puerto Rico . . .

CABALLEROS DEL MAR

By BOB REUTER

Skip Campbell did research which led to spearfishing bag limits and rules being voted into effect as a club rule. These rules oblige each member to take no more than 50 lbs. or 12 fish per day, which ever limit is reached first. Not to take more than a few Groupers, Snook, Snappers, or Hogfish on any one day or in any area over a period of days. Not to take more than 6 Lobsters, none of which may be less than 12 inches or have eggs (Noosing is the recommended method for taking lobsters) and in general to practice conservation at all times.

In the realm of sport, Tom Muzik and Pres. Tom Theis brought in a plan which was enthusiastically endorsed by the club. We will promote a series of competitions where no fish other than the "legal game fish" as appears on the Puerto Rican Charts are allowed for points and where minimum size limits are set for the species.

The first meet under the new minimum rules was held against the Ramey Air Force Base Spearfishing Club on August 21 in La Parguera. With high winds, roily water and lack of boats, the meet got under way.

But the fish did not cooperate. Big Snappers were seen but all beyond skin diving depth. The "hero" of the day was Howard Teas, who got an 11 pound Barracuda which gave the edge to the Caballeros Del Mar.

Alabama . . .

MONTGOMERY SKIN DIVERS

By BEN DUGGER

Although the Montgomery Skin Diver's Club is new and far inland our membership has been steadily increasing. We have about sixteen active members and a number of prospects.

Recently the State Highway Patrol called upon Joel Coley, Loyd Harris and Jerry Tolerson to help find the body of a man drowned in Lake Martin. The boys searched all night and most of the next day but were unsuccessful. The diving was covered by the newspaper and local television.

We would like to hear from anyone who is an unattached diver in this area. We meet the first and third Tuesday nights of the month at the Y.M.C.A. here in Montgomery. The time 7:30 P.M.! You may reach me at 3-8513. ☞

Oregon . . .

OREGON AMPHIBIANS

By JERRY HIERSCHE

We organized our club last April out of necessity, although there was already three other clubs at that time we could not get into them because of age limit. The oldest one of us was 16 at the time. So, at the next meeting of the Oregon Skin Divers, one of the best clubs in the northwest, four of us attended and started the junior division.

We did a lot of diving last summer and plan on diving all winter. The largest fish was taken by Phill Sheaffer, a twenty pound ling cod, first underwater photos and first fish were taken by Jerry Hiersche. We did a lot of lake diving and very little on the Oregon Coast, although David Stimpson and Jerry Hiersche spent a week at Canon Beach and only got pulled out by the riptide twice. ☞

California . . .

THE CORAL DIVERS

By WAYNE E. FRICK

Skin diving is fast becoming a popular sport among the young men who like to swim, and now we find that there is an ever increasing number of brave (fearless is a better word) young ladies who are equally interested in that aquatic sport.

Skin diving clubs are being formed everywhere. Diving alone may be fun but it is dangerous. Prospective skin divers find many advantages in club activities and club membership entitles one to participate in underwater championships.

The Coral Divers of El Sereno (L. A. 32) is a new club, and we would welcome new members. If you live anywhere near us get in contact with me at 3515 Lifer Ave., Phone Capital 1-6976. ☞

California . . .

LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

By HENRY DEL GIUDICE

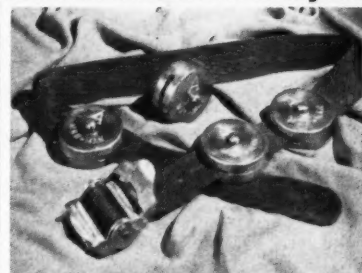
The club had a big blowout at Tealord's in Naples. We had a steak barbecue and beer bust with all the trimmings. A real big time was had by all. Laura Sturgill and Jerry Thomas were present representing the Council. The Neptunes did a lot of work on the Council Dance Balsubmare, we prepared the decorations and spent hours making paper fish.

On the weekend of the Nationals, one of our team members, John Smith, picked up a nice 30-lb. white sea bass at Ship Rock, Catalina. I have only one thing to say about the spearfishing competition. It was a test of marksmanship.

If the competition had been run on the same basis as our club beach meets (20 inch minimum and ten pound aggregate), I wonder if the competitors in the meet would have shot a single fish.

"Bug" season is open here now and I'd just like to remind you club divers out here on the west coast . . . remember, you are held up as an example, of what can be done with skin diving in the way of keeping the string fishermen happy and the Fish and Game wardens also. It's easy. Just remember this credo: "Never take more than you can eat." ☞

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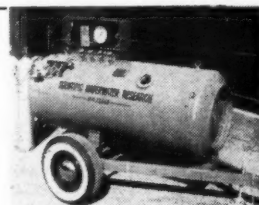
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TOP LEFT—Miami Beach lifeguard **KIP ROBERTS** hangs on with determination and skill to a large loggerhead turtle at French reef near Key Largo, Florida. Picture was taken by Jim Holland using a Brownie camera. **TOP CENTER**—**BEN WELCH** of the Serpents and a 105-lb. Grouper speared at La Paz, Baja, Mexico, last May. **TOP RIGHT**—**RONALD CIESINSKI**, son of well known Ed Ciesinski, Key West, Florida, is very proud of his 172-lb. black sea bass speared while on a diving expedition in the Keys.

CENTER LEFT—Columbia divers **AUGUSTO LEMAITRE**, **RODRIGO PUENTE** and **LUIS MOGOLLON** stand beside the king of the Barracudas. This one was 4 feet 5 inches long and weighed 33 lbs. The fish was speared by Puente August 7 out of Cartagena, Colombia. **CENTER OUTLINE**—**KENNETH PARELLA**, 18-year-old diver, with his 40 lb. 2 oz. striped bass speared off Watch Hill, Rhode Island, in September. Parella speared the fish with a direct hit in the heart. This catch beats his former record of 36 lbs. 4oz.,

speared in August. **CENTER ROW RIGHT**—48 lb. Yellow Tail landed by **JIM HAGEDORN** off La Jolla, California. Several of these beauties have been taken in this area recently. See Jim Merten's column "Diving Around San Diego." **OUTLINE GROUP**, **CENTER ROW**—**REEF REBELS** of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: **Bernie Abbott**, **Ben Mikell**, **George Conn** and **Lafayette Flanigan** struggle to hoist their 304 lb. black sea bass speared off Hollywood, Florida. Pic submitted by Jackie Conn.

BOTTOM ROW LEFT—**FRANK KABELKA** of the American Porpoise Club and another **Striped Bass**. This bass weighed in at 48 lbs. exactly, length 33 inches. Caught off Coney Island, New York, July 21st. **BOTTOM CENTER**—**ARLEN PARANTO**, **GENE STEEN** and **JOE DOLLINGER**, Beachcombers of Seattle, Washington, and their catch for the day . . . three Cabezone and a ling cod. The fish were speared in 60 feet of water. **BOTTOM RIGHT**—**BEVERLY WILLIAMS** in what the well dressed skin diver wears Lake-side fashion show was held at a meeting of the Sub Norms Club, Battle Creek, Mich.

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Wisconsin . . .

MID-WEST AMPHIBIANS

By GEORGE F. WILSON

The films Fred Roberts and George Wilson brought back with them from the Florida Keys have turned out very well. Fred gave a lecture and showed some of the movies at the Lake Delavan Yacht Club.

Many of the members have been on vacations. The reports of those who have been in the northern part of the state say that the diving is very good. The lakes in the Milwaukee area have been full of pollen due to dry weather, and the visibility is poor. Lake Geneva has had the best report of visibility; about thirty feet. However, there are too many motor boats running about Lake Geneva for safety. Lake Lauderdale is very clear with lots of fish in it. Long lake in the Kettle Marine State Forest has some clear water and some big bass and perch in it. Lots of walleyed pike are in Long Lake. Lake Beula is clear while Pewaukee lake and Lac La Belle are very poor as one can see only about three feet in these two.

Our old standby, Racine Quarry still has excellent diving; however, the parking there is a big problem. The sheriff of Racine County was approached about the subject, but was uninterested in helping us.

California . . .

LOS BUZOS

ALAN O. DRAY & RAY WOODMANSEE

On August 14 Los Buzos and Los Buscadores (San Diego State College Hiking Club) had a joint meeting which included a trip to Todos Santos Island some 12 miles by water from Ensenada, Baja, California. Our group of 32 persons chartered Femar I and Femar II, while Los Buzos dove the surrounding waters the hikers searched the island.

It was during August's heat wave in San Diego that the Los Buzos left for Guaymas. Three Buzos, Allan Dray, Ray Woodmansee, and John Jaynes were accompanied by Sea Spook, Earl Jenison.

Conditions improved none on the trip as the average air temperature was 110° F. scale during several hotter periods. The only escape from the heat was the 94° F. water.

We were amazed by the multitudes and varieties of fish we encountered. Most were tropic species never seen in the cooler waters of San Diego. We were told by the Mexicans the larger fish had left for cooler waters. This might have been a matter of location, however.

As it was, Ray Woodmansee speared a 45 pound sea turtle, John Jaynes a 15 pound permit fish, and Earl Jenison was right behind with a 12 pound jack crevalle. Capturing the turtles by hand was tried, but all were amazed at their speed and evasiveness.

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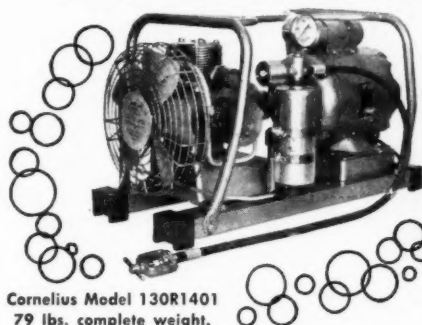
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Toggweiler aboard the
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South Africa ...

DOLPHIN UNDERWATER CLUB

By KEN CRELLIN

Our water has been fairly clear of late but what with no rubber suits and our rugby jerseys looking more like fishing nets after each weekend we really do freeze up fast in the 59°F. water and hasten out of the water to thaw ourselves out by the various methods known to us (warm girlfriends, hot coffee, rum etc.). A couple of weeks ago three of us—Les Bishop, Tony Dicks, and myself rowed out with the lifesaver "Van" der Walt in the council's lifesaving boat to Devils Reef, Les and I wore lungs, Tony snorkel dived. I got stuck in a cave while chasing some fish, my demand valve got hooked up in the cave roof and the place was too narrow to turn round, I managed to get out after a while but bent the valve mounting in doing so. Tony got two bronze beam—9 lbs. and 12 lbs., I got one of 11 lbs.

We have been doing some salvage work in the harbor lately, we all agree its no joke grouping around in the mud in the pitch dark looking for an object. We are all looking forward to the coming summer season when lots of trips to the Wild Coast have been planned. ☺

New Jersey ...

DIVING JETS

By JAY M. BARTELS

Our Second Annual Outing scheduled for August 19-21 was almost postponed by Hurricane "Diane" but at the 11th hour it suddenly changed course and went inland. Montauk Point continued to bask under calm sunny skies and provided us with the best weather possible. Total attendance during the affair was twenty-one including non-members wives and children.

A spearfishing contest was held for the men at 4 P.M. Saturday in the vicinity of Black Fish Rocks. Prizes were awarded for the first and second largest fish of any species to be caught within a one hour period. The First Prize consisting of a \$25.00 merchandise order drawn for the Aqua Sport Shop of Paterson was claimed by Vic LaQuadra who landed a 65-lb. Sting Ray despite a handicap of cramps in both legs. With a limited visibility of about six feet and the restraint from shooting at smaller fish exercised by all contestants, no others were taken.

Sunday morning was spent in exploring various areas of the Point for favorable diving spots. At 2:30 P.M. in the afternoon a second contest was held for the men which took place around the Montauk Harbor jetties. The rules called for a one hour period with one prize, a \$15.00 merchandise order, for the largest aggregate weight of edible fish. ☺

Texas . . .

YMCA REEF RAFF

By A. L. STAUFFER

The Reef Raff is a Houston club organized two months ago, under the sponsorship of the Y.M.C.A. At present, there are twenty-five members, with scuba of various commercial brands.

The members dive in the Gulf waters off Galveston, and Freeport, Texas. The visibility, close to shore, is generally three to five feet, so you observe the fish when they brush the face plate. At fifteen foot depth, its cold and black, which isn't encouraging for spearfishing. Fishing boats are chartered to take us out thirty-five miles, to a depth of 50 feet, and visibility of 10 to 40 feet. We'd like to trade some of this muck, for a strip of rock-bottomed water, but since that isn't possible, or in the Texas spirit, we'll have to adapt to our particular situation. Any divers passing through Houston are invited to contact us, through the Y.M.C.A. ☞

California . . .

KELPTOMANIACS

By LOU KILGORE

This month finds us with four new members: Paul Garvin, Jerry Richartz, Ken Swan, and Ronnie Hayes. Our club is greatly enriched by their participation. This has been quite a summer for us featuring trips to Acapulco and Guaymas for some of the members and trips

California . . .

SAN FRANCISCO DIVING CLUB

By BILL MIXON

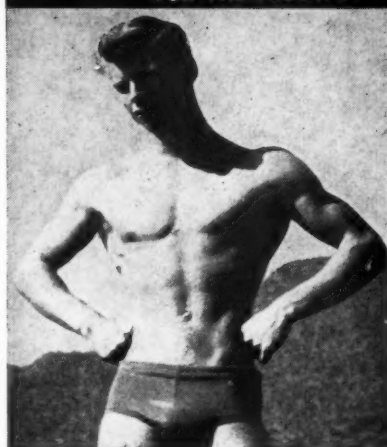
Since our last report the club has added two new members to its rolls. Bill Lathlean and Victor Formanek, who have gone diving with us a number of times, were welcomed into the club at the last meeting.

One of the most interesting activities lately has been the building of wet suits. After many hours of arguing, designing, cutting, fitting, and cementing, three members of the club have reached the beach in snug fitting foam suits.

Several of our members took part in the dive held on August 13, to collect marine invertebrates for Steinhart Aquarium. Although there were no major undersea battles with enraged mother clams, we regarded the dive as an interesting and worthwhile activity, and enjoyed the opportunity of taking and wrestling a few starfish with members of a number of the other clubs in this area. ☞

to Salt Creek and Point Dume for the less fortunate. Soon those hearty souls among us will be braving the hoar frost and rim ice for their sport. Others will retire to their stamp collections, wives, or other indoor diversions to await warmer weather. This writer prefers hi-fi. ☞

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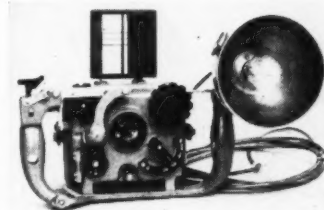
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In The Pacific . . .

"DEEP SEA WANDERERS"

By **BOB BOURGAULT**

Activities during the past few months have been numerous and were highlighted by a trip to "Otaru" in northernmost Japan. Though there was a notable absence of much of the marine life we've come to associate with the orient, We did manage to collect a few abalone specimens.

Speaking in general terms, Japanese skin diving equipment is copied from the French with the "Squale" mask and "Tarzan" arbalette reproduced in almost perfect detail. Domestic swim fins however, were found to be far from satisfactory.

One item in particular, proved eye catching to us though not especially practical. This consists of a wooden raft-like affair, with a large tank of compressed air strapped on each side. These come complete with pressure gage and valves, plus a considerable amount of diving hose. Utilizing a special harness, the diver attaches a demand regulator to his back and is prepared for a prolonged submersion. Allowance has also been made to accomodate a companion diver.

Due to the low cost of optical equipment here in the orient. Microscopes have been available very reasonably and have become a necessary part of a "Wanderers" skin diving equipment. With these, it's been possible to pursue our hobby of marine biology with the ship underway. We should reach San Diego the latter part of October, at which time we will make available to interested parties, a limited amount of juvenile abalone we've collected on the Japanese coast and preserved. ☞

California . . .

SHARKS

By **WALLACE McARTHUR**

The day after the Guaymas competition, Chuck Vallance speared a Mobula Manta estimated at 500 pounds, landed him with the assistance of two fellow team members.

Three of our club members have qualified as instructors in Scuba in the course given by the Los Angeles County Department of Park & Recreation, Chuck Vallance, Mel Fisher, and Joan Gillen.

At our August meeting, two Aqua Guards, Joe Naud and Bill Troy, gave a safety talk and demonstration, primarily on underwater breathing devices.

Effervescent Kathy Conley, club president, was rescued at the beach August 7th. Her version is that she was caught in a rip, then overtaken by an enthusiastic life guard. The life guard was unavailable for comment. Impeachment proceedings have been instigated. ☞

Michigan . . .

TREASURE UNLIMITED DIVING CLUB

By FRED SHAFT

The warm summer months have slipped by all too soon for the divers of this club, and strange as it may seem, as the cold autumn winds chill our Michigan water the hum of activity seems to grow louder. Despite the overcast skies and chill winds that made onlookers wrap up warm last Sunday, several members entered the cold water and began laying an underwater compass course, which we think will help scuba members in determining distance underwater and also the use of a compass while submerged.

One of the members, Ed Glassford, is conducting a class on skin and scuba diving which will be held at the Northern Branch of the Detroit YMCA. The class will run 16 weeks and any further information may be received by calling the Main Branch of the Y here in Detroit. A certain portion of each club meet will also be devoted to a class in some phase of skin diving. These endeavors are part of a large undertaking by the Club to help promote the safety angle in this fast growing sport. Any correspondence from you Californians on how to further promote these informative classes would be greatly appreciated. Write to Fred Shaft, 13804 Park Grove, Detroit 5, Michigan.

California . . .

LONG BEACH JUNIOR NEPTUNES

By GARY BLOCKLEY

We would like to welcome two new members: Bill Melivich and Bob Gillis. As most of the club now own their own lungs a trip to Catalina was made to view the Valiant, a sunken boat near Avalon in about 60-100 ft. The trip was disappointing as only a barren hulk was seen. The remainder of the trip was spent diving for pennies from the steamer pier. Over \$15 was collected.

Past trips to the Island and Laguna produced for high-point man Larry Scott a 22½ and 20 lb. male sheepheads. Ending our monthly calendar was Gary Howe, president, with a near record catch of a 27¾ lb. male sheephead at Laguna.

Everyone has just about completed their own brass camera cases for both still and movie. Jack McNeal is already showing many fine color flash slides taken with a "one lock" brass case. Camera can be removed in 15 seconds. Watertight to 200 ft. What could be easier than "just" putting it together.

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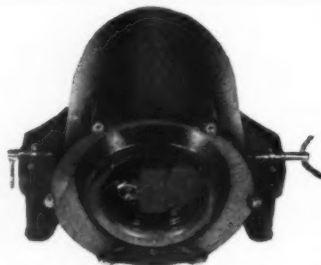
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California . . .

SEA ANGELS

By ED HOLBERT

We have had two meets with other clubs for get acquainted get-togethers. A dive was held in Palos Verdes with the Sharks and a picnic was held at Long Beach recreation park with the Ebbitiders. We find that such meets gives everybody a chance to meet other divers and gives skin diving a better name. We were defeated by the Sharks at diving and the Ebbitiders at volley ball, but a swell time was had by all.

The breakwater found us gathering Scallops for the Scallop chowder that was served at the Sea Angel - Ebbitider picnic. After about four trips we were able to obtain enough Scallops. The chowder went over with a big success and I must say it did taste pretty good even if we made it ourselves. The Ebbitiders and the Sharks proved to be very cooperative and we believe that by having get togethers with other clubs that good-will may be spread for our sport.

California . . .

PACIFIC COAST MORAYS

By PAUL KARLSTROM

and
STEVE VAN SICKLE

The first outing this summer was at Lunada Bay, Palos Verdes. The trip was successful, with clear water and an abundance of fish.

Member, Paul Karlstrom, spent a week at Catalina Island, and came back with a report of wonderful spearfishing in excellent conditions.

Summer activities ended with an unsuccessful trip to the Old Signboard in Malibu. The water was rough and murky but we're looking forward to a trip to Point Dume.

The Pacific Coast Morays are a really enthusiastic club, but we need a sponsor who could spend some time with us and take us on outings. If any skin diver would like to help out, call: THornwall 6-6460, Burbank, California.

California . . .

NORTH HOLLYWOOD TRITONS

By DICK TAYLOR

Our old fishing holes are getting more and more divers and less and less fish, but we still seem to come up with a few now and then. Our new addition, Chris Lynch, has been doing real well taking many good fish and abalone. On Kwajalein our ambassador from the Tritons Jerry Van De Vanter took a five foot Tiger shark and in his last letter he had gotten a giant clam. He also uses a spear-gun to pick coconuts. Oh, well.

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FACTORY AND SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Appointment of R. P. Geddes, Jr., and James G. Cassou as factory and sales representatives for The Garrett Corporation's Northill Co., a Los Angeles manufacturer of lightweight anchors and underwater breathing devices, has been announced by E. H. Messereau, manager. Geddes and Cassou will represent Northill in the distribution and merchandising of the company's well known Northill Lightweight Anchor and its recently developed Northill Air-Lung for underwater swimming.

NEW SCUBA MASK

The new Healthways-Cressi Scuba mask permits a choice of breathing with or without the Scuba mouthpiece between the teeth. By inserting the regulator mouthpiece through the specially designed mask opening you have an unbeatable mask-type unit. With this full face mask it is not necessary to use the Scuba mouthpiece in the customary fashion between the gums and the lips. Just placing the mouth up to



mouthpiece is enough to allow the diver to easily actuate any demand type Scuba regulator.

In event of loss of mask or broken lens, mask can be retrieved and mouthpiece alone used . . . then mask can be adjusted on head and cleared or, in event of broken lens, diver can safely return to surface using mouthpiece alone.

The mask incorporates all the amazing features of the now famous Pinocchio mask plus a rubber "clearing tab" at the bottom of the mask which enables easy clearing! The soft nose-shape makes it possible to grasp nose between fingers and blow outward to relieve pressure on the ears. Inside air displacement is far less than any full face mask on the market . . . easier to clear, less buoyancy to overcome on a dive!

UNDERWATER JEWELRY

His Lordship Products Co.—manufacturers of meticulously authentic sterling nautical jewelry that has so captured the fancy of marine enthusiasts everywhere—recently announced another line of Skin Diver jewelry.

Embodying all of the fine characteristics of all His Lordship jewelry, the underwater line has an instant appeal because of its authenticity. Available on the tie bars and pins is a replica—approximately 1½ inch long—of a fully equipped Skin Diver in action. His equipment includes Aqua-Lungs, mask, flippers, spear gun, wrist watch, wrist compass and even a dagger hanging from his waist. A smaller, yet equally authentic replica of the skin diver is available on earrings or as a charm.

The new line also includes a pair of accurately sealed flippers attractively mounted on a tie bar or on cuff links. For the ladies, these same flippers can be had as charms or on earrings.

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Divers' Bulletin Board

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CUSTOM MADE one and two piece foam neoprene suits—\$45.00. These are the same suits as used by the Disneyland divers and are fully guaranteed to be as advertised. For information write: Sea Nymph Mfg. Co., 10771 Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, California.

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38 — NOVEMBER — SKIN DIVER

FOR SALE—30' Pacific Diver (Double Ended Monterey) Chrysler engine, 9 foot beam, diving ladder. Perfect for skin diving club or light salvage. Good shape. \$800.00. Call FR 5-5581, Los Angeles.

NEOPRENE SUITS for sale. Two brand new Seal Life suits, used but once, one medium, one large \$35.00 each. Man and wife quitting sport, 680 Shepard, San Pedro, California.

KYACKS AND PADDLE BOARDS—six 13-foot Kyacks \$30.00 each. Six 13-foot paddle boards \$30.00 each. Boards and Kyacks are fiberglassed, will sell all for \$300.00. Tom Rock, 8625 Morrill Ave., Whittier, Calif. Call OX 56734.

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STILL WANTED: Copy of THE COMPLEAT GOGGLER. You get cash or new diving equipment for it. Also like to hear from other countries, to exchange books, magazines and articles on skin diving. Paul Cox, 265 East 78th Street, New York City.

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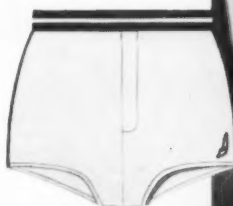
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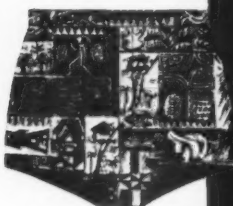




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